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# THE JERUSALEM POST

VOLUME LXII, NUMBER 18769

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1994 • TISHREI 16, 5755 • 11 RABIA 15, 1415

NIS 3.70 (EILAT NIS 3.20)

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A baton-wielding Haitian policeman chases civilians through the streets of Port-au-Prince as police violently disperse a pro-democracy rally yesterday. (Reuters)

## Ross leaves Damascus, meets Rabin today

US special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross, who held several hours of talks with Syrian President Hafez Assad in Damascus yesterday, is to meet with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin this morning in preparation for Secretary of State Warren Christopher's arrival next month.

Israeli officials sought to dampen expectations regarding the visit of Ross and Martin Indyk, White House Middle East specialist, and unofficially the ambassador-designate to Israel.

One official termed the trip an attempt to keep the Israel-Syrian track alive by according to a Syrian wish to ensure the US role remains high-profile.

Ross is also to meet with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who recently made it clear that Israel has some tough decisions to make. In a recent closed-door session of the Labor Knesset faction, he reportedly said: "Either we give up the Golan, or we give up peace."

After meeting Rabin and Peres, Ross is scheduled to see PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Gaza, presumably to discuss funding by the international donors.

Ross's visit comes as unpre-

DAVID MAKOVSKY

cedented government pro-peace billboards, which do not explicitly mention Israel, have been seen in Damascus.

The texts of the signs, which US Ambassador Christopher Ross reportedly passed along to Jerusalem, are: "We want the peace of the brave, a peace that will continue. We fought in honor, and we are negotiating in honor. We will make an honorable peace."

"The only alternative to war is peace, a peace based on justice. Peace is a noble goal, and the way to it is noble."

"We want peace in order to devote our full energies to the welfare of our people."

"A just peace is in our interest and is compatible with our ambition to improve development of our land and to fulfill our civilized functions."

Prof. Moshe Maoz of the Hebrew University, an expert on Syria, said the billboards "are part of another effort of the Syrian regime to prepare its public for peace."

Meanwhile, Peres last night denied Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer's suggestion that Israel and Syria are holding secret talks. "Israel is not conducting secret negotiations with Syria,"

Peres said at an international film festival in Haifa that included filmmakers from Algeria and other North African countries.

"I assume there are secret contacts to prepare the talks between the two delegations on substance. I cannot give details," Ben-Eliezer had told Reuters earlier yesterday.

Ben-Eliezer was not available last night for comment.

Syrian officials dismissed the Ben-Eliezer remarks, reportedly saying that "there are no secret talks between Syria and Israel. It is natural that the US co-sponsor make contacts with the ambassador of Syria and the other party. But these contacts cannot be considered as secret."

The remarks were an allusion to Ross's facilitation of supplemental contacts between Ambassador to the US Itamar Rabinovich and Syrian Ambassador Walid Mualim in the breaks between Christopher's periodic shuttles to the region. American sources have insisted these supplementary contacts deal with technical clarifications and do not break new ground.

US officials have been very dubious about reports regarding back channels, believing the Syrians want to keep the US in the picture.

## Golan residents furious with Aloni for suggesting they move to Galilee

DAVID RUDGE

ANGRY Golan Heights hunger strikers blasted Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni yesterday for calling for the establishment of new settlements in the Galilee to house displaced residents of the Golan in the event of a peace treaty with Syria.

The attack on Aloni followed a pledge from another member of the government, Economics Minister Shimon Shetreet, to fight any plans to withdraw from the Golan.

Shetreet made his promise when he visited the hunger strikers on Monday at their protest tent overlooking the ancient city of Gamla.

He maintained that demands for a "significant majority" in the Knesset or a referendum over a "significant withdrawal from the Golan" were legitimate and justified in a democratic society.

"I am concerned for the security of Israel and its fate if we come down from the Golan Heights," said Shetreet.

"I denounce all those who negate the legitimacy of demands for a special majority... especially when we are talking about sovereignty. We are talking about the Golan Heights and Jerusalem and other places." (Continued on Page 2)

## Violence in Haiti as US forces land

US Marines landed yesterday in northern Haiti, expanding the peacekeeping mission to the country's second largest city. In the capital, violence erupted as Haitians emboldened by the American presence began challenging local police on the streets.

Angry Haitians threw grapefruit-sized rocks at Haitian police at the docks in Port-au-Prince. Police fired automatic weapons into the air to disperse more than 5,000 people in Cite Soleil, a stronghold of the exiled president.

One reporter in Port-au-Prince said police clubbed a demonstrator until he was apparently dead. The clash began when demonstrators chanting slogans for the immediate return of Aristide pelted police with rocks, bottles and coconuts. Other foreign correspondents at the scene said the man lying in the gutter was apparently lifeless.

The displays of open defiance near the port and airport underline the precariousness of the US military presence in Haiti, even as its force took control of Cap-Haitien. On Monday, the first troops moved into Port-au-Prince.

News agencies

US commanders say Haitian police are in charge of keeping control of the streets. American soldiers were on hand at some yesterday's disturbances, but did not intervene.

The steel-helmeted police carrying riot gear fired tear gas and at least one fired live bullets in the air. US troops stood by, uncertain as to whether they could act in such a situation and some clearly angered by their first sight of the brutality of the dictator Lt. Gen. Raoul Cedras's police.

"Two days ago, we were told to kill them. All we know now is that we are not to interfere," one American soldier said.

"We are disgusted," said another, who asked not to be named. "They [the Haitian military] ought to be booted out."

The violence in Cite Soleil broke out while a US military convoy was going through the slums. At least a dozen Haitian police officers went into the crowd swinging clubs and several shots were fired in the air from automatic weapons, sending the crowd scrambling.

More than 5,000 people were involved in the demonstration just 200 meters from a police post in Port-au-Prince. Many sang "We are Lavalas!" - the long-repressed popular political movement of exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Some Haitians hopped onto two US personnel carriers, chanting "Cedras Has to Go! Biamby Has to Go! Michel Francois has to go!" - references to the military coup leaders who overthrew Aristide in 1991.

On Haiti's northern coast, 1,800 Marines secured the airfield and harbor of Cap-Haitien, and a military spokesman said that more than 6,000 US troops would be in Haiti by the end of yesterday in Operation Uphold Democracy, a mission which was agreed on with the country's de facto military rulers.

A day after the first wave of American soldiers thundered in, many Haitians showered Americans with smiles, waves and hugs. But both groups were cautious, with the Americans mindful of the way initially grateful Somalis quickly soured on their presence during the mission to restore peace in Somalia.

## Police say PA agents working from Orient House

BILL HUTMAN

JERUSALEM police have uncovered evidence that Palestinian security agents have been working out of Orient House, the PLO headquarters in the city, police sources said.

The evidence is to be presented to the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court today, at the remand extension hearing of the three bodyguards of Jibril Rajoub - the security service chief in Jericho - detained 10 days ago, the sources said.

The police have been looking into the allegations that Orient House was being used by Rajoub's agents for several months. Orient House officials have denied such cooperation with Rajoub.

The Jerusalem police spokesman, meanwhile, declined to comment on whether the allegations had indeed been verified.

The arrest of Rajoub's three bodyguards 10 days ago, and subsequent interrogation of about 10 eastern Jerusalem Arabs allegedly connected with the case has revealed extensive information about Rajoub's operations in the city, the sources said.

## Dow Jones plummets

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks on Wall Street collapsed yesterday, as an unexpected surge in the US trade deficit stirred widespread worries about inflation, with the price of gold shooting up to a three-month high.

Based on early and unofficial data, the Dow Jones industrial average closed down 67.63 points at 3,869.09.

In the broader market, declining issues swamped advances 18-4 on active trading of more than 328 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

## Soldiers kill Palestinian fleeing roadblock

JON IMMANUEL and Itim

SOLDIERS shot and killed a Palestinian near a roadblock just outside Jerusalem yesterday after he fled when ordered to halt.

Palestinian sources identified the man as Ziad Adali, 25, from Bidu, northwest of Jerusalem, and said the incident occurred several dozen meters south of the roadblock.

The IDF Spokesman said Adali and another man got out of a car before the A-Ram roadblock and evaded it as they crossed into Jerusalem without being examined. They then hailed a taxi as soldiers, noticing they were carrying a parcel, became suspicious. They ordered the two to stop, but they got into the taxi which drove off.

Soldiers fired in the air and the taxi stopped. Adali, without the parcel, jumped out and began running away, at which point soldiers warned him to stop, then fired directly at him when he continued running.

Adali was struck in the back and died later in Ramallah Hospital.

The army said it did not know what was in the parcel Adali was carrying because he left it in the taxi which sped away as soon as he jumped out. The man who crossed the checkpoint with him escaped in the taxi.

An earlier report by the army said that soldiers at the checkpoint claimed that Adali rushed towards them with a small parcel they thought might be a pistol or a grenade.

Military sources said it was not clear why the initial report differed so significantly from the final account.

It was the second case in three days of a fatal shooting at a checkpoint. On Sunday, Akram Ban Fadel of the Nablus area, who was driving a stolen van with Israeli plates, was shot dead by soldiers when he tried to force his way through a roadblock at Rimmonim on a road leading to Jericho.

In other incidents, two Israelis were wounded, one moderately, by stones thrown at their car in Kalkilya on Monday.

In incidents among Palestinians, Hassan Walwil was shot dead Sunday in Kalkilya by another Palestinian, Palestinian sources said.

On Sunday night, Hussein Abu Ura, of Heider near Bethlehem, an alleged collaborator, was murdered.

In Gaza, Islamic organizations yesterday sent condolences to the family of senior security man Lt. Col. Yusra Himis, who was killed mediating a dispute between Izzadin Kassam members and Gaza Preventive Security men on Sunday.

Palestinian sources reported that an autopsy showed he was killed by bullets from a Kalashnikov, the rifle carried by the Palestinian security forces. The Izzadin Kassam men involved in the incident were said to be only carrying pistols.

The Palestinian People's Party in Ramallah and Fatah in Jenin issued statements during the past two days calling for people to hand in their weapons after incidents in which shots were fired at a Ramallah basketball game and a Jenin wedding.

## Alleged terror cell member suspected of murder

Jerusalem Post Staff and Itim

MEIR Koren, arrested Saturday night as a suspected member of the alleged Jewish terror cell, is thought to have been involved in a murder.

On Monday, Lt. Oren Edri, another suspected cell member, told a remand hearing in military court that he had been tortured by General Security Service investigators.

"They tortured me," he said. "They put a bag over my head; they put rats in my cell; they denied me food and medical care." He also said they cursed him and said that "Kiryat Arba is the pornography of Judaism." Judge Lt. Col. Shai Yaniv ordered Edri held until the end of his trial, which is to open on Sunday in Central Command Military Court in Jaffa.

Another alleged cell member, Rabbi Ido Eliba, also of Kiryat Arba. (Continued on Page 2)

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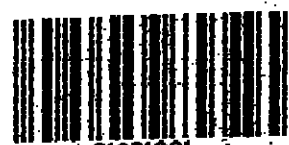
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# Peres: Golan hunger strikers undemocratic

THE hunger strike by Golan Heights residents is "an undemocratic act aimed at influencing and determining policy by undemocratic means," Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told a joint session of his party's political bureau and Knesset faction on Monday.

The session, which was closed to the press and was attended by representatives of Golan settlements, seemed chiefly a means to vent steam and allow the party leadership to campaign again for a deal with Syria. No votes were taken and no resolutions passed. Party discipline was not yet officially imposed on Labor MKs, and that move is now slated for next week.

There were no stinging attacks on rebellious MK Avigdor Kahalani and his diminishing number of allies, but Peres did address him when he contended that "just as a soldier must obey orders, so an elected official must bow down to the dictates of the majority."

Peres went on to argue that the real danger the opposition to ceding the Golan is creating "is implanting doubts in Syrian minds that the Israeli government has a majority and that it can make deals and live up to them." This, according to Peres, "could effectively end the entire process. Is this what the protesters want - to prevent the government from pressing on with its peace program?"

SARAH HONIG

He maintained that "peace with Syria affords us more security than the entire Golan does." He noted that "in 19 years not a single Israeli soldier lost his life on the Syrian border, because the Syrians keep their part of the bargain."

When some faction members shouted that Syria is fighting Israelis in Lebanon, Peres countered: "There are no agreements in Lebanon." He then claimed that "the Islamic terror cannot be fought militarily, but by eradicating the hunger which spawns it."

Kahalani spoke emotionally, predicting that he will "pay a heavy personal political price in 1996," when the new slate of Knesset candidates is picked. "But I don't care what will happen to me then. I have nothing to lose. I don't want to tear the party apart, and I don't want to leave it, but I do want this party to be true to what it promised its voters and not to lie to them so brazenly. You," he said turning to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, "sent me to the Golan before the 1992 election to assure the voters there that we would not cede the Golan. I gave my word, and I am committed to it."

MK Yoram Lass, a co-sponsor of Kahalani's bill to mandate special referendum and Knesset majorities for withdrawing from the

Golan, said that any attempt to prevent Kahalani's group from introducing its bill "will be tantamount to muzzling a sector of opinion in the party and denying us free speech and the right to campaign for the platform on which we were elected."

Economics Minister Shimon Shetret admitted that he helped draft Kahalani's bill, "because I fear for the country's survival if we give up the Golan. A significant withdrawal from the Golan needs the backing of a very significant majority. Why do we have to have a 61 MK majority to safeguard the import of kosher meat, but a two-to-one majority is enough to rescind our sovereignty on the Golan. Why do three-fourths of the American states and three-fourths of the Congress need to ratify a change in the voting age, but giving up sovereignty over a strategically vital area can be subject to a chance majority?"

Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish cautioned all sides that they may be "fighting over an unhatched egg. As things stand, the Syrian position is so uncompromising that the process might not get off the ground at all. The Syrians now want a total withdrawal prior to any normalization, something no Israeli government can agree to. Given this intransigence, we must not dry up the Golan settlements."

# P.A policeman stopped in stolen car

BILL HUTMAN

A PALESTINIAN Police officer was detained by Israeli Police on Monday while driving one of several dozen stolen Israeli cars allegedly being held unlawfully in Jericho.

The vehicle, a Daihatsu, was stolen in Tel Aviv about two weeks by one of the released Palestinian prisoners living in Jericho, a senior police source said.

The ex-prisoner is known to Israeli Police to have stolen and fled with a number of cars to Jericho, the source added.

The Palestinian officer detained, Monir Barghutti, 39, was apparently using the stolen Dai-

hatsu to run an errand between a Jericho police station and the Vered Jericho checkpoint.

Barghutti, in civilian clothes, was detained just after entering Israeli-controlled territory at the checkpoint, during a routine check by police which revealed the car was stolen.

Barghutti belongs to the personal security branch of the Palestinian Police. Israeli Radio reported he was the bodyguard of Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabo. The vehicle was one of about 30

being held by the Palestinian Police at their base, what was formerly the Hana Civil Administration Headquarters, the Israeli Police source said.

The Palestinians turned down without explanation an Israeli request that the vehicles be returned to their owners, the source said.

He said Israeli Police recently made a formal complaint to the Joint Liaison Office at Vered Jericho about the matter.

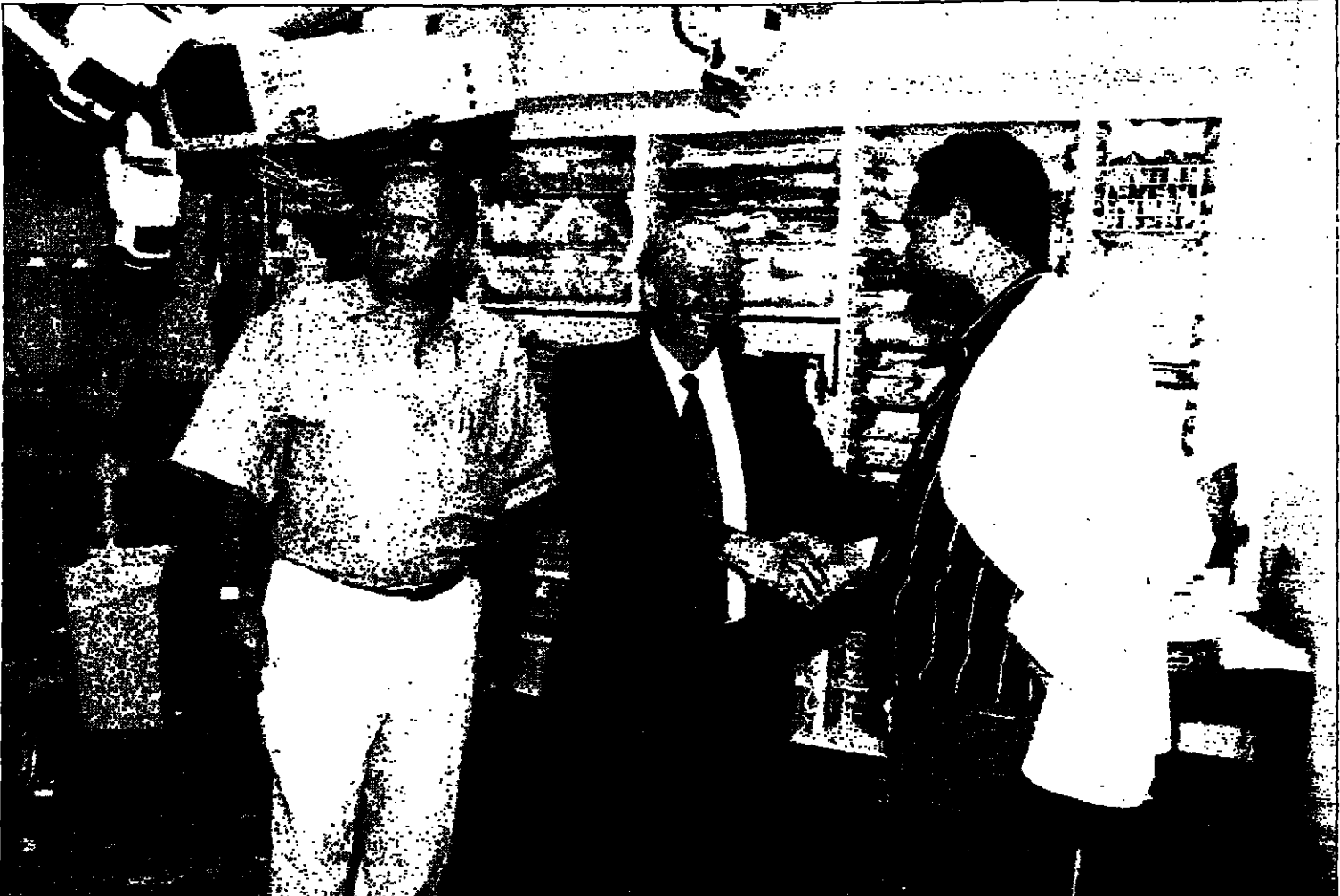
"In some cases the Palestinian Police are cooperating with us, in others they are not," said the

source, who is in daily contact with the Palestinian Police.

He said the Palestinian police officer would stand trial in an Israeli court, and not be turned over to the Palestinian authorities as they requested.

Palestinian Brig.-Gen. Ghazi Jabali, while admitting there were at least 5,000 stolen Israeli cars in the Gaza self-rule area, blamed Israelis for selling their cars cheaply to Palestinians to scam the insurance money.

"I deny the police or security forces use any stolen cars. All our cars were bought," he told reporters yesterday.



Palestinian Red Crescent President Dr. Fathi Arafat, center, shakes hands with a doctor at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem while on a tour of the facility. At left is Prof. Daniel Weinstein, head of the hospital's obstetrics division. Stein/Harari

# Dr. Arafat to help reduce infant mortality rate

JUDY SIEGEL

DURING a surprise visit to Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Keren, Palestinian Red Crescent (PRC) President Dr. Fathi Arafat agreed to cooperate with Israeli physicians in reducing infant and maternal mortality rates among Palestinians.

Arafat, a pediatrician and the younger brother of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, was well received in the hospital by Arab and Jewish patients and by the staff.

He toured the pediatrics department, the trauma center, the emergency room and the obstetrics/gynecology department along with Prof. Daniel Weinstein, head

of the hospital's obstetrics division and an old friend who drove him to Jerusalem from Jericho.

Weinstein had invited Arafat to attend the Jerusalem International Congress on Labor and Delivery a few months ago. Although the Cairo-based physician had hoped to attend, said Weinstein, he failed to turn up for "various reasons."

But Weinstein, who was elected president of a world organization of specialists in his field, now Arafat's agreement to join forces with Israelis in reducing the death and

disease rates of young women and their babies in the Third World. Among the proposals are the "adoption" of a poor village by a team of doctors in an effort to improve maternal and infant health.

During what Arafat called his "completely private, non-political visit" to Hadassah, the Palestinian doctor confirmed his eagerness to work on the project.

Arafat - who was hugged and kissed by Arab patients who recognized him - said he had heard

much about Hadassah Hospital, and now that he saw it for himself was certain the praise was justified. Formally charged with responsibility for health services in the autonomous regions, Arafat is likely to move the PRC's headquarters to Gaza.

Weinstein said that Arafat, whom he had visited in Cairo several times while preparing his congress, was regarded as a "potential Nobel Peace Prize" candidate in the future. Arafat has built 72 medical institutions, many of them maternity and pediatrics hospitals, for Palestinians living outside Israel.

# IDF denies setting up unit to evacuate settlers

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE IDF yesterday denied as "baseless" published reports that the army was establishing special units to disperse and evacuate settlers in the Golan Heights, Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

Ma'ariv said that soldiers would go into action if settlers refused to evacuate their homes under any future peace deals in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golan Heights.

Before joining the special unit, the paper reported, soldiers were asked whether they had friends or relatives among the more than

115,000 settlers, because senior officers feared regular units might refuse orders to remove settlers, should the need arise.

"The IDF does not examine the political views of the soldiers being drafted, and certainly does not sort out soldiers according to their legitimate political opinions," the IDF Spokesman said.

The army did confirm that the Central Command had established a military police company whose members are specially trained to disperse both Jewish and Arab disturbances.

# Police: Sunday's attack was nationalistically motivated

RAINE MARCUS

SHARON District Police are now convinced that the stabbing of grocer Shimon Tsorer by two Arabs in Kafr Ibtan on Sunday was nationalistically motivated.

Police initially believed that Tsorer, 55, knew his assailants, and examined criminal motives for the attack, but dropped that motive after questioning the victim in his hospital bed.

Police and the GSS are still hunting for the terrorists. Tsorer, who had gone to the area to buy vegetables, picked up his attackers at the junction south of Baka al-Gharbiya.

They took him to some greenhouses ostensibly to sell him cucumbers, but instead stabbed him in the chest, fleeing in another vehicle.

The wounded Tsorer managed to drive his car until he met a

passerby who took him to Hadera's Hillel Yoffe Hospital, where he was operated on.

When he recovered from the operation, Sharon police questioned him, concluding that the motive for the attack was nationalistic.

# MURDER

(Continued from Page 1)

who is suspected of planning attacks on Arabs and illegally obtaining military equipment, was remanded for 12 days on Monday by Haifa Magistrate's Court. The court also forbade him to meet with his lawyer for three days, the maximum allowed by law.

Judge Nitzan Sharon acceded to a police request and ordered the entire hearing conducted behind closed doors.

# Guatemalan Embassy: Israel ignoring threats made against us

BATSHEVA TSUR

THE Guatemalan authorities have expressed dismay over what they perceive as the failure of the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem to react appropriately following threats to Guatemalan Embassy staff, *The Jerusalem Post* has learned.

Last week, Guatemalan diplomats in Tel Aviv received threatening calls from someone, described as having "an Arab-sounding accent," following Guatemala's decision to move its embassy to the capital.

At the same time, Arab emissaries in Guatemala City reportedly protested to the government there against the planned move.

The decision on the move was taken as veteran Guatemalan Am-

bassador Stella Garcia-Granados, who made special efforts to promote the issue, prepares to wind up her term of office and take up her next post in Poland.

Following the threats, the embassy approached the ministry in the hope of obtaining police protection for its property. However, Guatemalan sources said, no such help was forthcoming.

"The Foreign Ministry has expended a great deal of time and energy in attempts to get embassies to move to the capital," a source said, "but when there is an incident of this kind, it does not take appropriate action to ensure that such a move can indeed take

place." The source said that swift Israeli police action would certainly serve as a deterrent to any would-be terrorist.

The police stepped up their patrols in the area of the embassy immediately after learning of the threats, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said last night. He said that a written request from the Guatemalans for a permanent police presence outside the building had been received by the ministry only over the weekend.

On Sunday, Ministry Director-General Uri Savir sent a cable to the Police Inspector-General requesting such a presence, the spokesman said.

The Guatemalans are said to be reconsidering their decision.

# Vilnay suggests building overpasses in Gaza strip

Jerusalem Post Staff

OC Southern Command Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilnay wants overpasses to be built on trouble spots along the roads leading to Gush Katif which pass through the autonomous parts of the Gaza Strip.

The separation of Israeli and Palestinian cars will reduce friction between the sides and reduce the number of attacks being carried

out on the main routes, senior command sources said.

The sources said it would be necessary to build three to four such overpasses on the roads leading to Gush Katif. The bridges would be built over the Gush Katif junction, Netzarim junction and one or two bridges over Morig junction.

# 2 killed, 7 hurt on roads

TWO people were killed and seven injured in road accidents over Succot.

A woman was killed, a child suffered serious injuries, and three people suffered moderate injuries when a pickup overturned near Afula yesterday.

The truck veered to the side of the road and flipped over. An infant suffered serious injuries and his parents suffered light injuries when two cars collided at Pardesia junction. In Netanya, a 49-year-old woman was hit by a car while she was crossing at a crosswalk Monday night. A car driving at high speed hit her, killing her instantly. (Him)

# ALONI

(Continued from Page 1) Somebody who is prepared to give up Tel Aviv by a vote of 24 against 21 should say so," said Shetret.

Asked about party discipline, Shetret said: "Since Haim Ramon's move there is no party discipline."

Shetret also called on Syrian President Hafez Assad to reach a compromise with Israel and to understand that land is also important to the Jews and not just to the Arabs.

While the economics minister earned long and loud applause from the hunger strikers and Golan activists at the Gama protest tent site, Aloni's comments about new settlements raised their ire.

"We heard that you have called on settlement movements to implement the 'resettlement' of Golan residents in the Galilee and hand over the Golan and its existing settlements to Syria," read a

letter sent to Aloni by the hunger strikers last night.

"The expression resettlement conjures up memories of the most difficult days for our people in Europe."

The letter accused those with "pretensions for safeguarding human rights" of being hypocrites for now advocating the "monstrous idea of destroying towns and villages, and the transfer of human beings."

According to the Golan activists, more than 12,000 people visited the Gama protest tent over the Succot holiday, including MKs, mayors such as Menachem Ariav of Upper Nazareth, regional and local council leaders affiliated to all the parties, as well as retired army colonels, brigadier-generals and major generals.

Yitzhak Hoffi, who was OC Northern Command during the Yom Kippur War, said the strate-

gic importance of the Golan Heights for the security of Israel had remained unchanged.

His comments were echoed by former head of the Mossad Zvi Zamir and another former OC Northern Command (Maj. Gen. res.) Yossi Peled.

The reserve generals called on the hunger strikers to end their fast, now midway through their second week, so they would have the strength to continue the fight to keep the Golan under Israeli rule.

Members of the United Kibbutz Movement have also established a sit-in protest opposite their Tel Aviv Headquarters in support of the Golan settlers' campaign.

Meanwhile, Meretz party activists established their own demonstration Succa at the Golan junction in support of withdrawal in return for full and lasting peace.

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Guest Speaker, Rabbi Uri Lupatolsky

Dean, Simon Wiesenthal Center, Los Angeles, Rabbi Marvin Hier

The Philanthropist, Mr. Eli Reichmann

Guest of Honor, Dr. Jacques Wayneberg, Paris

Dinner Chairman, Rabbi Meir Porush

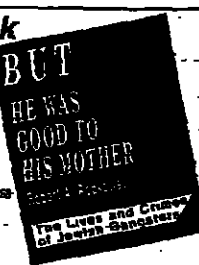
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Party Adams applies for US visa



## Gunman kills eight in Beijing rush hour

JEFFREY PARKER  
BEIJING

AN armed Chinese soldier ran amok in rush-hour traffic in Beijing yesterday, triggering a gunbattle with police in which eight people were killed including an Iranian diplomat and his son.

The soldier opened fire when he was thwarted in his attempt to hijack a jeep to Beijing's Tiananmen Square, witnesses said.

The official Xinhua news agency said the gunman killed eight people and wounded 30 before being shot dead by police.

Officials branded the shooter a "scoundrel" but would not confirm reports by witnesses and police sources that he was a military man. A police spokesman said police were among the dead but would not say how many.

The shooting started at a busy intersection after the driver of a jeep commandeered by the gunman outside the capital refused to take him to the vast square in the city centre, the driver said.

Xinhua said the gunman fired "indiscriminately at passers-by with an automatic rifle."

Police and soldiers with automatic weapons pursued the black-clad gunman, armed with a military rifle and a large supply of ammunition, as he ran from the jeep and took over a taxi, a state employee who spoke to the jeep driver said.

The early morning shootout paralysed rush-hour traffic on one of Beijing's busiest highways outside one of four state compounds where foreign diplomats and journalists live.

The Iranian embassy said attaché Yousef Mohammadi Pishkari was shot dead while driving his children to school. One of his sons, aged 10, was also killed.

The other, a 12-year-old, was shot and wounded as was one of his two daughters.

Iran immediately protested to China over the killings.

"The Chinese charge d'affaires was invited to the Foreign Ministry where Iran's concern and protest were relayed and the Chinese government was asked to inflict maximum punishment on the perpetrators as soon as possible,"

Deputy Foreign Minister Aliakbar Boroujerdi told Tehran Radio.

The gunfire shattered the sunlit calm of a traditional holiday, the Mid-Autumn festival.

The state employee quoted the jeep's driver as saying the gunman commanded the jeep at gunpoint in Tongdian, a heavily militarised eastern suburb.

"The soldier was a petty official in the People's Armed Police who had some kind of conflict with his superior," he said. "He decided to arm himself and go to Tiananmen Square."

The driver did not say why the soldier wanted to go to the square, the symbol of Communist Party power that has often been the scene of acts of protest.

With soldiers in pursuit, the gunman then took over one of Beijing's yellow "breadbox cabs" which was already carrying passengers.

"The next thing I know, a man with a gun chased after my cab and jumped into the front seat," the taxi driver told Reuters minutes after the shooting. Most of the windows of his cab were shot out but the driver was unhurt.

"It was chaos. There was shooting everywhere. Everyone was shooting. He was shooting. The soldiers were shooting. I just ducked way down in my seat like this and tried to drive. I could not see where I was going."

His cab immediately crashed into an embankment, where the gunman leapt out and fled, pursued by soldiers and police.

Repeated bursts of automatic gunfire blew out the windows of a public bus, hitting at least three passengers, and ripped through the Iranian diplomat's car, witnesses said.

Spent shell casings and trails of blood littered the Second Ring Road, tracing the northerly route where soldiers chased the gunman.

The gunman was felled in a final shootout outside the International Post Office about 200 metres north of the shot-up bus. (Reuters)

## Haiti deal could backfire on Clinton foreign policy

ANALYSIS

CAROL GIACOMO / WASHINGTON

THE Haiti agreement could be a turning point for President Clinton's standing as a world leader with implications for policy toward North Korea, Bosnia and other trouble spots.

The assessment is conditional because while the accord announced Sunday with the Caribbean island nation's military rulers looks like a win for Clinton, it may be at least several weeks before this is known for certain.

Even if successful, the evolution of the Haiti policy has been fitful, reinforcing the notion that Clinton and his aides still have much to learn about the conduct of foreign affairs, not the least of which is how they came to the verge of invading Haiti.

Clinton, despite overwhelming opposition from the American public and Congress, ordered the invasion to begin Sunday night if three key military leaders who ousted democratically elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 1991 did not leave power voluntarily.

About 61 US planes were airborne when the two most powerful leaders — commander in chief Lieutenant General Raoul Cedras and his chief of staff, Brigadier General Philippe Biamby — negotiated terms of their departure with a special team of US emissaries sent at the 11th hour and headed

by former President Jimmy Carter.

As a result, instead of an invasion, a US-led international force will enter Haiti in a permissive rather than hostile environment, aiming to establish civic order and lay the groundwork for the nation's economic, political and cultural revival.

What a difference a year makes.

Almost 12 months ago, a US ship with troops on a far more limited mission sailed into Port-au-Prince harbor, then fled when a crowd of Haitians at the dock turned menacing.

The incident followed the beginning of the US retreat from Somalia after 18 American peacekeeping troops were trapped and killed in a skirmish with a warlord and the body of one serviceman was dragged through Mogadishu's streets.

Both episodes produced graphic images that haunted Clinton, defining him and his foreign policy as dithering, uncertain and unable or unwilling to commit to the use of armed force in the face of even the most suspect opponent.

They added to doubts created when Clinton

initially advocated a tough policy of air strikes against Bosnian Serbs and then went along — for a year — with Europeans who favored negotiation.

The Democrat president, who dodged military service in Vietnam and has been viewed as having an uneasy relationship with the American armed forces, was not eager to invade Haiti.

But senior officials say that, in addition to other factors, the credibility of the United States and Clinton was on the line.

That is not the best rationale for sending troops into battle.

But as some analysts argued, Clinton would have a difficult time convincing North Korea it must abandon its nuclear programme if he could not stand up to Haiti's dictators who, backed by a small ragtag army, have thwarted international demands for Aristide's return.

Moreover, Clinton's firmness and adherence to a stated position could help as he faces an October 15 deadline for moving to lift the arms embargo against Bosnia Muslims and tries, through Secretary of State

Warren Christopher, to mediate a Syria-Israel peace accord.

"This is clearly power in the service of diplomacy in one of the most convincing ways that I call recall," Christopher told reporters, referring to the Haiti accord.

That may be but it will not be certain until Cedras, who reneged on an earlier signed deal, and Biamby, leave power.

Clinton, who had insisted they depart Haiti immediately, ultimately gave the two men until October 15 to step down. And the agreement does not explicitly commit them to depart Haiti, although US officials said that is expected.

The deal's fuzziness suggests Clinton may have been so desperate not to use military force that he frittered away his upper hand — 15,000 US troops and an armada off Haiti's coast — to gain a less than airtight package.

The United States and Clinton face enough risks and problems trying now to bring order and recovery to Haiti that the failure of Cedras and Biamby to fulfil their part of the bargain could greatly complicate those tasks.

It could also revive doubts that Clinton does not have the stomach to use force — even when he says it is justified — to achieve foreign policy goals. (Reuters)

## Judge refuses to dismiss Simpson case

LOS ANGELES (AP) — O.J. Simpson's last-ditch effort before his trial to have murder charges dismissed has failed as the judge rejected defense arguments that the case was based on sloppy and dishonest detective work.

Superior Court Judge Lance Ito Monday upheld an earlier ruling by Municipal Court Judge Kathleen Kennedy-Powell that detectives acted properly when they entered Simpson's estate hours after the June 12 slayings without a search warrant and found bloody evidence. Kennedy-Powell presided over Simpson's preliminary hearing over the summer.

In another development, prosecutors complained that Simpson's personal secretary shredded a document after prosecutors had tried to seize it. But the defense contended that investigators improperly used the grand jury investigating Simpson's longtime friend Al Cowlings to learn about the document.

Simpson is charged with two counts of murder in the knife deaths of his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson, 35, and her friend Ronald Goldman, 25, outside Ms. Simpson's condominium, about two miles from Simpson's estate.

Ito agreed with Kennedy-Powell that the detectives clearly were motivated by a desire to inform Simpson of the tragedy and make sure that others were not wounded or dying at his estate.

"The detectives were faced with a brutal and violent killing. They had two young children who were unattended," the judge said, referring to the couple's 8-year-old daughter Sydney and 6-year-old son Justin, who were asleep at the condo when the slayings occurred.

Ito said the officers were understandably concerned when no one answered the doorbell or phone at Simpson's estate and they spotted what appeared to be blood on his Bronco, which was parked askew in the street.

Ito said he was more troubled by the length of time that officers stayed after making sure everyone was all right.

But he said that the report of thumps heard by Simpson's house guest, Brian "Kato" Kaelin, was enough to keep detectives at the scene and allow them to investigate further. That was when they found a bloody glove lying on a pathway and seized it as key evidence against Simpson.



British Prime Minister John Major and South African President Nelson Mandela yesterday sign a cricket bat already autographed by the England and South African teams. (AP)

## UN General Assembly convenes

UNITED NATIONS — In the shadow of the US landing in Haiti, the UN General Assembly convened yesterday to debate the international community's role everywhere from the Caribbean to Bosnia to Rwanda.

This 49th General Assembly will also consider disarmament and human rights issues, and will see Ivory Coast Foreign Minister Amara Essy elected to the largely ceremonial post of president.

The opening of the General Assembly has been eclipsed in recent years by the Security Council's consideration of security issues.

The assembly has no legal power, unlike the Security Council of 15 nations. But the assembly is a world parliament and its non-binding resolutions carry considerable moral weight.

A parade of world leaders begins next week, with President Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin speaking on Monday. At least 178 speakers, including princes and prime ministers, are to address the world body.

However the assembly has been diluted in importance, it still considers the major issues of the day and delivers important statements.

Once again, the assembly is expected to tell the Security Council to lift the arms embargo against Bosnian Muslims so that they can defend themselves.

Third World anti-Israel items have fallen off the agenda, like the raft of anti-apartheid issues, now that a Middle East peace process is underway and a black majority governs South Africa.

But troubling issues remain,

such as Taiwan — 23 years after its banishment in favor of China. Taiwan has launched a campaign — passionately opposed by China — to place on the agenda the question setting up a committee on how Taiwan could get reinvolved.

Taiwan argues it has a powerful economy, huge foreign trade, and democracy, and therefore it deserves to be heard. The appeal is expected to go down to defeat, but not before a small chorus of dissent is heard.

Ivory Coast's Essy makes an impeccable choice as both an African and an international diplomat to chair the UN General Assembly, say diplomats who know him.

Essy, who took over the year-long, largely ceremonial post yesterday, is a professional who has spent most of his career representing his country at the UN in New York and Geneva.

"He is a good choice as an African chairman. He has a long experience of the UN and a good feel for how international policy-making works," commented a Western ambassador in Ivory Coast, who knows Essy well.

As foreign minister of his country since 1990, Essy played a tireless role in the tortuous and unsuccessful negotiations for peace in Liberia and Angola.

Essy, who first served abroad in Brazil in 1971, was a principal actor for 20 years as Ivory Coast resisted Soviet-backed initiatives in Third World forums and advocated a policy of dialogue with white-ruled South Africa when most of the continent supported armed struggle. (Agencies)

## Furious Zulu king ousts Chief Buthelezi

NONGOMA (AP) — The Zulu king severed ties with nationalist leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi yesterday and canceled an important Zulu festival, creating a rift in South Africa's largest tribe.

Buthelezi, head of the Inkatha Freedom Party that fought a low-level civil war for years against President Nelson Mandela's African National Congress, indicated his supporters would hold Shaka Day celebrations despite the cancellation announced by King Goodwill Zwelithini.

Relations have been strained between Buthelezi, the dominant force in Zulu politics for four decades, and Zwelithini over Buthelezi's use of the revered monarchy as a rallying point for Zulu nationalism.

The rift is likely to weaken Buthelezi and could touch off more bloody battles between Inkatha followers and Zulus who support the ANC if the king is perceived to be switching his allegiance to the ANC.

The break came after Mandela, South Africa's first black president, was jeered by young Inkatha members as he arrived for a meeting with Zwelithini and Buthelezi at the royal palace in northern KwaZulu-Natal province. About 100 youths threw stones at the royal palace and at

Mandela's helicopter.

Mandela's visit was to discuss an invitation he received from the king to attend Shaka Day celebrations this weekend. Buthelezi had complained the invitation broke protocol because he wasn't consulted, and that Zulus would be angry if Mandela attended.

After the meeting, Mandela canceled his plans to attend in an attempt to defuse tension. But the Zulu royal family then met into the night and decided that Zwelithini should sever all ties with Buthelezi, his distant cousin.

Buthelezi has acted as the king's chief adviser and used his proximity to the traditional leader in building his political power base.

"I am insulted that my palace has been stoned, vulgar language has been used, the state president has been insulted and my property has been destroyed," Zwelithini was overheard telling members of the royal family.

Mandela told reporters yesterday he was aware of the king's announcement but was not alarmed by the developments.

Buthelezi said the king had not directly informed him of his decision and dismissed the reports as "rumors." But if the reports were confirmed, he said, they "will inflame feelings of anger. People are already angry."

## Major forges new ties with South Africa

CAPE TOWN (Reuters) — British Prime Minister John Major promised help for post-apartheid South Africa by proposing a new fellowship for the future spanning trade, politics, diplomacy and sport.

In a speech to South African legislators yesterday, Major praised South Africa for weathering the political storms whipped up by the "wind of change" sweeping the continent which Harold Macmillan — the last British prime minister to visit the country — spoke of in 1960.

As South Africa, fresh from its first all-race elections in April, sought to develop its economy and society, Major said Britain wanted to build on existing bonds by offering help in areas as diverse as farming and policing.

"Britain will not stand idly on the sidelines and wait to see how you get on," said Major, sporting a yellow carnation on his grey suit. "I have come here to reawaken an old friendship, to hold out my hand to the new South Africa, to make a new beginning, to signal a new fellowship between your country and mine."

Major earlier held talks with President Nelson Mandela, who thanked Britain for its "tremendous" help behind the scenes in prodding South Africa toward democracy.

Major's predecessor, Margaret Thatcher, earned the resentment of many South African blacks for opposing sanctions as a weapon for overturning apartheid.

But Mandela, speaking to reporters with Major at his side, said: "If I had any complaints against the British government, this would have been an appropriate time to voice them. The fact that I am doing nothing of the sort shows how grateful I am for what came to us below the surface."

Major told the legislators that more than half of the 100 million pounds in aid Britain has pledged over the next three years would go to the government's reconstruction and development programme — the cornerstone of Mandela's strategy for redressing inequalities spawned by apartheid.

## Gerry Adams applies for US visa

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — A State Department official said Gerry Adams, leader of the Irish Republican Army's political wing Sinn Féin, applied yesterday for a visa to visit the United States again.

The official said the application was lodged at the US consulate in Belfast and a decision was under consideration.

The official had no details on the dates Adams planned to travel or the places he intended to visit.

A decision approved personally by President Bill Clinton to give Adams a visa to visit the United States earlier this year caused friction with Britain. London said the visit January 31-February 2 produced no forward movement in the peace process in Northern Ireland.

But the IRA on August 31 announced a complete ceasefire in its 25-year armed struggle against British rule in the province. British Prime Minister John Major last Friday lifted a broadcasting ban on Sinn Féin officials in Britain.



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# Major powers in new peace push for Bosnia

KURT SCHORK  
SARAJEVO

A MAJOR Power contact group seeking peace in Bosnia began a new push on yesterday to overcome Bosnian Serb rejection of their plan to divide the former Yugoslav republic between its warring communities.

UN spokesman Michael Williams said the group, meeting in Zagreb, were also likely to discuss the withdrawal of UN peacekeepers from Bosnia if the international arms embargo on the Moslem-led government is lifted.

Contact group officials - from the United States, Russia, Germany, France and Britain - were seen by UN special envoy Yasushi Akashi and Croatian President Franjo Tudjman in Zagreb. They were travelling to Belgrade for talks today with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic who has backed the peace plan and imposed a military blockade against the Bosnian Serbs.

International peace efforts have run into the sand since the Bosnian Serbs spurned the contact group proposal to divide Bosnia almost equally between them and a federation of Moslems and Croats.

The United States plans to ask the UN to lift the arms embargo against the Moslems if the Bosnian Serbs do not endorse the plan by October 15.

Russia, France and Britain, who fear rearming the Moslems would rekindle the war, will withdraw their peacekeepers - the backbone of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) - if the embargo is eased.

Bosnian Serbs, encouraged by the disarray among the international negotiators, have demanded a revamping of the plan and say they will sit tight until the group make new proposals.

In the meantime, they have begun a power blockade of Sarajevo and its 380,000 mainly-Moslem inhabitants, cutting off their water, electricity and gas, and threatening to choke essential supplies to UNPROFOR.

General Sir Michael Rose, the

peacekeeping commander and other UNPROFOR officials, were meeting Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic yesterday to ask for the power to be turned back on.

They were also protesting against the seizure by the Serbs of mortar from a UN arms dump on Sunday.

The weapons were used to pound civilian targets in the city in retaliation for a Moslem army attack on a Bosnian Serb military position which prompted accusations from Rose that the Moslems deliberately provoked their besiegers.

Two people were killed and 18 wounded in the worst shelling of Sarajevo since February.

A spokesman for the European Union administration of the southern city of Mostar said a woman was killed in its Moslem quarter on Monday by Serb shelling.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) voiced fears that Serbs in northwest Bosnia intended to drive every last Moslem out of the towns of Bijeljina and Janja after hundreds of people of all ages were forced from their homes since the weekend.

"We remain fearful the Bijeljina region and particularly the town of Janja will be completely cleansed of Moslems," ICRC spokeswoman Lisa Jones told reporters in Sarajevo.

Janja's 10,000 pre-war population was 98 percent Moslem and Karadzic once regarded it as a showcase of Serb tolerance towards Moslems.

The Moslems have been robbed and forced out over the past year to make way for Serb refugees from areas of Bosnia now under Moslem or Croat control.

A UN spokesman in Geneva said 750,000 Moslems and Croats had fled Serb controlled areas of northern and eastern Bosnia in the last 2-1/2 years, mainly as a result of "ethnic cleansing" by the Serbs. (Reuters)



British racing driver Damon Hill pleads with the London policeman writing him a parking ticket yesterday. Hill was cited while sitting in a cab parked on the sidewalk of a central London street as he was promoting a new taxi service which provides on-board TV viewing through a satellite dish. (AP)

## Liberation festivities reopen Belgian wounds

PAUL AMES  
BRUSSELS

WHEN allied soldiers kicked the Nazis out of Belgium 50 years ago, thousands thronged the streets of Belgian cities to give their liberators a wild welcome.

Today, Belgium remains riven by the legacy of those who did not cheer the German retreat. Hundreds of people accused of collaboration are still deprived of their civil rights. They cannot vote or be elected to office, have been banned from government jobs and stripped of pension rights. Some still pay off fines imposed in 1945.

Amid the celebrations this month of the anniversary of the liberation, a long and bitter dispute over the continued punishment has surfaced anew.

As with so many contentious issues in this bilingual nation of 10 million people, the call for forgiveness for surviving collaborators is a dispute between Dutch and French speakers.

Many in Flanders, the Dutch-speaking northern half, demand an amnesty for collaborators. But political groups in Wallonia, Belgium's francophone south, cannot forgive and forget.

"What they want is not justice," Jean Gol, the justice minister and head of the French-speaking conservative party told the newspaper *Le Soir* on Sept. 1.

"The limits are unclear," he said. "Do we go from pardoning to forgetting? From forgetting to negating?"

After the war, 405,057 Belgians were charged with collaboration, and there were 57,254 criminal convictions. Some 250 people were executed and 100,000 people were barred from jobs in government, teaching and other professions.

Though many collaborators benefited from pardons in 1948 and 1961, Prof. Luc Huyse of the Catholic University in Leuven says up to 2,000 remain without civil rights.

Huyse, co-author of *The Undigested Past*, a book on collaboration in Belgium, estimates tens of thousands of collaborators and their families also want an amnesty to clear them of a psychological burden of guilt.

"People still believe an injustice was done to them," Huyse said in a telephone interview. "They want this injustice declared," he said.

"A real amnesty would do away with the crime and the punishment." Flemish nationalists feel Dutch-speakers have been unfairly discriminated against. They say many who collaborated in tradi-

tionally conservative Flanders did so out of fear of Communism or to end Belgium's historical domination by francophones rather than out of real sympathy with the Nazi occupier.

"Ninety percent of the collaboration in Flanders was political. In Wallonia, the collaboration was much more ideological, there was much more treason," argues Paul de Belder, vice-president of the Uzer Committee, which organizes a yearly Flemish nationalist rally.

Dutch speakers point to Leon Degrelle, a Nazi supporter who organized Walloon SS units that earned a reputation for brutality against the resistance and fought on the Nazi side in Russia.

Degrelle died in exile in Spain last April, an unrepentant supporter of Adolf Hitler.

"We understand that for Walloon politicians it is much more difficult to forgive," de Belder said.

"We don't ask them to forget," he said. "There were mistakes on both sides. We have to learn from these mistakes... and look to the future."

But French-speaking Belgians have been enraged by comments at a recent Flemish nationalist gathering where one speaker claimed the liberation anniversary marks "50 years of Belgian intolerance." (AP)

## Tamil rebels attack Sri Lankan navy boat

COLOMBO (Reuters) - Tamil Sea Tigers killed or captured 27 Sri Lankan sailors after rebel suicide squads in two boats rammed a navy patrol boat off the northwest coast, the military said yesterday.

Brigadier Gemunu Kulatunga of the Defense Ministry's Operational Headquarters said 16 members of the crew of 43 were rescued and rushed to hospital after the attack after midnight yesterday.

A senior navy officer said two officers and 23 sailors were missing, believed killed or captured by the rebels. Rescuers recovered the bodies of two sailors from the scene of the attack between Mannar island and Kalpitiya.

"She was rammed by one enemy suicide boat and then, while in a shootout to fend off others, was rammed by a second boat, blowing off her stern," the officer said. Five rebels died.

The attack could disrupt moves by the new People's Alliance government to end the island's 11-year-old ethnic war.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam are fighting for a separate state for their 2.5 million minority Tamil community in the island's north and east.

A Defense Ministry statement said the M.V. Sagawardene was on a routine patrol when it was rammed by Sea Tigers in two boats filled with explosives. It was then attacked by a flotilla of rebel craft.

The boat was partially sunk about three km off the coast. Kulatunga said the explosions occurred when the craft had stopped, probably to inspect what was thought to be a fishing vessel.

A female rebel with the rank of lieutenant colonel was among the guerrillas killed in the attack, military officials said. The Sea Tigers are believed to have removed some of the vessel's weapons.

Military analysts said that the Sagawardene, one of the two biggest patrol vessels in the fleet and named after former President Junius Jayewardene when commissioned in 1984, weighs 330 tons and is 39 metres long and seven metres wide.

It is fitted with 25 mm Chinese-made twin guns and has a top speed of 15 knots. It carries a crew of six officers and 30 men.

## Papua New Guinea city devastated by volcanoes

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (AP) - Ships rescued thousands of villagers from beaches near the devastated port of Rabaul yesterday as two erupting volcanoes continued to spew thick ash, dense black smoke and poisonous fumes.

Most of the city's 30,000 residents and people from surrounding villages fled just before two volcanoes erupted Monday around its once picturesque harbor, triggering earthquakes and

fierce electrical storms.

Witnesses said the city had been devastated by a one-meter layer of ash. Much of it had mixed with rainwater to form gray mud which had collapsed many buildings and trees under its weight. Flooding was also reported.

Officials said communications with Rabaul had broken down and there were fears for a small number of people still in the city, 800 km northeast of Port Moresby, the capital.

## Ditched wife says it with food

LONDON (Reuters) - A spurned British housewife took revenge on her husband by leaving 15 paddling pools filled with rotting food in the home she had to leave, a newspaper reported yesterday.

Dee Knight, 36, dished up the treat for her 60-year-old husband, John, who asked for a divorce two months after they married and the walked out, *The Sun* reported.

In a story illustrated with photographs of Dee and the pink plastic pools, the newspaper said the angry wife took a week to prepare the food before the date set for handing over the house keys to lawyers representing her husband.

The pools were filled with, among other things, 300 cans of chicken soup, two dozen rotting prawns, 50 stinking fish heads, 81 kg of mashed potato, two dozen apples, 4.5 litres of custard and more than 1,300 tea bags.

## Swedish voters hand Carlsson a tricky task as next premier

SIMON HAYDON  
STOCKHOLM

SWEDISH voters appear to have handed Social Democratic leader Ingvar Carlsson a poisoned chalice by giving him enough votes to be the next prime minister but not enough for a strong government, political analysts say.

As horse trading began in earnest after Sunday's inconclusive election, Carlsson - deprived of a parliamentary majority by just 13 seats - gave the first hints that he might seek to form a minority government.

Speaking of an ill-defined "effective government of cooperation," Carlsson hinted strongly he would not seek a permanent coalition to guide him through the next four years, but would seek support in parliament from day to day.

In a leading article headlined, "Back to the Future," the respected left of centre daily *Dagens Nyheter* said Swedish voters had returned a verdict that was packed full of contradictions.

One of the biggest anomalies was that Sweden's election campaign was dominated by businessmen and financiers telling Swedes that it was vital for private business to be encouraged with favourable conditions.

"And the good citizens react by giving 57 percent of the vote to leftist parties," the daily said.

Sweden's complex electoral system of proportional representation has frequently given the country coalition governments, but elections rarely throw up such a finely-balanced result.

Mats Svegfors, editor of the conservative daily *Svenska Dagbladet*, pointed out that Social Democrats have not had a majority in parliament since 1970, although they have governed for 15 of the past 24 years.

"Until the end of the 1980s it was obvious that there would be a leftist government if there was a leftist majority of votes. This year that is not at all the case," he said.

Swedish analysts are now busy trying to analyse Carlsson, to find out whether he is genuinely trying to explode the traditional polarisation of Swedish politics, or whether he is simply trying to work out how to survive.

Politicians and the Swedish people may give Carlsson some time to explore his options, but

financial markets - only too aware of the country's precarious finances - are likely to render summary judgement.

Markets who forced the conservative Bildt to float the crown and push short-term interest rates up to 500 percent are unlikely to be more sympathetic if they see a traditional leftwing government emerge during government talks this week.

Market players say Carlsson would gain considerable respect on international markets if he explored further the possibility of working with the centrist Liberal Party.

Even if this does not work, Carlsson has already flagged that he may be prepared to ignore opinion polls and accept the wrath of voters who elected him on condition that he protect the country's all-embracing welfare state.

As well as an ambitious programme of spending cuts and tax increases, Carlsson has said he reserves the right to take whatever tough action is necessary if an economic crisis suddenly develops.

Carlsson now faces several days of negotiations with other parties before the shape of the next government becomes clear or whether he will seek to go it alone. (Reuters)

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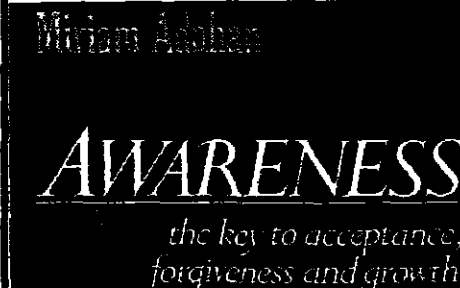
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# O, what a tangled web they wove in a decade of deceit

**SPIDER'S WEB:** Bush, Saddam, Thatcher and the Decade of Deceit by Alan Friedman. London, Faber and Faber. 455 pp. £17.50.

**THE OCTOBER WAR:** Memoirs of Field Marshal El-Gamasy of Egypt by Mohamed Abdul Ghami El-Gamasy. Cairo, The American University in Cairo Press (distributed by Columbia University Press, New York). 430 pp. \$48/\$27.

**TRAIL OF THE OCTOPUS:** From Beirut to Lockerbie - Inside the DIA by Donald Goddard with Lester K. Coleman. London, Bloomsbury. 326 pp. £16.99.

Alan Friedman untangles in chilly detail the webs of deceit woven in what have come to be known as Iranagate and Iraqgate. He also calls for an official investigation to disentangle the deceptions which trapped so many in their webs.

The knowledge supplied here is pretty damning - a detailed record of how London, Washington and Rome "brushed aside both laws and stated policies to a relentless quest to arm Saddam Hussein throughout the 1980s, and even weeks before Iraq's invasion of Kuwait."

The story is too long to summarize. After telling it, detail by grisly detail, Friedman offers some highly instructive

conclusions. Iraqgate, he writes, is not like other scandals that the Western world has experienced over the past two decades.

"It embodies a broader, more systematic abuse of power, one that contributed to the prolongation of the Iran-Iraq war, in which one million people died, and to Operation Desert Storm, which cost the lives of tens of thousands of innocent Iraqis who were already living in the hardship of Saddam's tyranny."

Friedman warns of the peril which he says is in store "if the watchdogs of Western democracy abdicate their responsibilities as do those... who should now be brought under investigation."

He further asks that an investigation be initiated in which allegations are pursued "wherever they lead, regardless of how politically awkward that might be." It is a grave responsibility, he adds. "What is at stake is nothing less than the truth."

**THE AMOUNT** of deceit that was invested in engineering Egypt's surprise attack on Israeli forces this side of the Suez Canal on October 7, 1973, seems to be a mere fraction of that so ably depicted in *Spider's Web*.

To add to the contrast, there was a difference in style: Field Marshal Mohamed Abdul Ghami El-Gamasy cannot

in fairness be expected to muster anything like Friedman's reporting expertise or strike such a dramatic note.

I had read Gamasy's memoirs in the Arabic original, which was brought out by a Paris-based publisher in 1989. Even then the contents seemed peculiarly passé, and the author appeared to have few secrets to divulge.

In this English translation - done jointly by Gillian Potter, Nadra Morcos and Rosette Frances - nothing has been added by way of new revelations. Nearly a third of the book is taken up by an appraisal of the Six Day War of 1967, the short War of Attrition that followed, and the few years of cease-fire that preceded the October War.

The October War - also known as the Yom Kippur War - is covered in Part III (pp. 127-339), less than half the text. The bulk of this consists of a day-by-day account of the fighting and may be of interest only to the specialist.

Then comes Part IV, "The Kilometer 101 Talks;" Part V, "Egypt-Israel Military Negotiations;" and a short concluding Part VI, "El-Gamasy Leaves the Ministry of War."

## BOOKS

MISSIM REJWAN

One notable feature of *The October War* is what Gamasy - who was chief of staff of the Suez Canal zone after 1967, chief of the Operations Department of the Armed Forces during the October War, and subsequently commander-in-chief of the armed forces and minister of war - has to say about the delicate relationship between the political and military leaderships of Egypt, especially with regard to the varying sources of authority at crucial moments in time of war.

There are quite a few touching moments in this personal account.

Toward the end, for example, he is seemingly torn between the serious reservations and misgivings he says he had about the Camp David Accords and the peace treaty with Israel and the wish to be present at the celebrations marking the return of El-Arish and the raising of the Egyptian flag after a long absence.

Gamasy accepts the invitation to attend, but he is careful to dissociate himself from the peace which his president concluded with Israel. As he writes in the chapter entitled "In the Service for Life":

"I have been a professional soldier throughout my service. I am proud of this because I believe that when politics enter the army they corrupt it. My term in office as minister of war and general commander of the armed forces was a period of military conflict with Israel. The war had not yet ended when my service came to an end. About two weeks after the signature of the Camp David agreements... I had withdrawn from the ministry and from state affairs."

**THE INITIALS DIA** of the subtitle of *Trail of the Octopus* stand for the US Defense Intelligence Agency, described as the world's most secretive and well-funded espionage organization.

In the spring of 1988, apparently on a mission for this agency, Lester Coleman was in Cyprus spying on the activities there of the Drug Enforcement Organization (DEO) which, along with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) was running a series of "controlled deliveries" of Lebanese heroin through the airports of Frankfurt and London en route to the US.

According to his account, given here with the help of journalist Donald Goddard, while in Cyprus Coleman discovered that the security of this "string" operation had been breached, becoming

an open secret lacking the most elementary precautions.

He warned the American embassy in Cyprus that a disaster was waiting to happen. Coleman's warnings were ignored. Seven months later, Pan Am Flight 103 exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland. Among the 259 passengers and crew members who perished was a DEO courier.

Coleman was arrested, charged and threatened with a minimum of five years in a federal prison.

He eventually fled to Sweden, where he applied for political asylum. Following a change of government in Sweden, intense pressure was brought to bear to deny his application for asylum.

Since then, he has been forced to live under constant threat, according to the publisher's promotion enclosed with the review copy.

Coleman has never claimed to know definitively who was responsible for the bombing.

However, the book says, "on the basis of his personal experience he can confirm that there is an established drugs smuggling route, through Cyprus to France [where Flight 103 started] and onwards to the United States."

No doubt the book is a good read for those who have a taste for this kind of detective work. Count me out.

## UAE's newest visa law breaks hearts, pockets

CHRISTINE HAUSER

ABU DHABI

IRISH Pujari and his bride-to-be bought the gold, the costumes and the other trappings of a traditional Indian wedding.

But then Pujari found out that he is to be the bad-luck bachelor instead of the happy husband on their planned wedding date in December.

The United Arab Emirates raised from September 1 the minimum salary expatriates must earn before they can bring spouses and children to live with them.

"We had an arranged marriage and then the rules came into the making," said Pujari. "We had the whole thing planned, but the most substantial investments have been the emotions."

It is the government's latest move to staunch the flow of expatriates into the UAE where 75% of the two million population are foreigners, mostly from India and Pakistan.

Other measures include granting soft loans to UAE men to meet marriage costs provided they marry UAE women, and a workforce nationalization policy which includes a rule that banks must ensure UAE citizens compose 10% of their staffs.

"The new rule will be implemented according to a timetable to correct the country's demographic imbalances," said Interior Ministry undersecretary for immigration Hilal al-Dhaheri.

FOR PUJARI, a 28-year-old Indian sales executive, it means a few hundred dirhams stand in the way of wedded bliss.

His monthly salary falls just below the minimum of 5,000 dirhams

(\$1,362) for the right to apply for a family visa.

"Now I'm going to ask for a raise. Otherwise I will have to go back to India and marry her," he said.

"People will not understand. If the boy has postponed the marriage they think there might be something wrong with the girl. I tried my best to console her, but it's very hard to do it over the phone."

The rules also say foreigners given free housing must earn at least 4,000 dirhams (\$1,089) to bring in family and anyone sponsoring a maid must pay the government a fee equal to her annual salary of not less than 400 dirhams (\$108) a month.

This could mean fewer jobs for housemaids, mostly from poor countries reliant on foreign remittances. Of the 180,000 housemaids in the UAE, about 70% are from Sri Lanka.

"We are really watching developments to see the impact," Sri Lanka labor attaché P. Navaratne said.

"We are also dissatisfied with the salary of 400 dirhams. It's a slave wage," he said.

In the weeks that followed the August 9 announcement, local newspapers were bursting with stories of expatriates' fears that families would be split up or children yanked out of school.

"Housewife hangs herself," a *Gulf News* headline said, reporting that an Indian woman suicide's traumas included fear "that she might not qualify for a visa renewal under the new visa rules."

(Reuters)

## Religious militants ignite fears for future of Saudi Arabia

DUBAI - Conservative Saudi Arabia, which sees itself as the world's principal advocate of pure Islam, is increasingly haunted by a resurgent religious militancy.

Regional experts and diplomats say this was one of the most significant legacies of the 1990/91 Gulf crisis for the strategic state which owns a quarter of global oil reserves.

The diplomats and experts say militancy in the vast country where Islam originated 14 centuries ago and where religion remains a solid pillar of most people's lives was troubling Saudi Arabia's neighbors and allies.

But Western diplomats, who see the kingdom as the linchpin of political moderation and free-market economic growth in the Middle East, insist that King Fahd's government has the situation largely under control, at least for now.

"I would vote for it," a senior Western diplomat in the kingdom said, noting it had extensive experience in monitoring and adjusting to cyclical ebbs and flows of Islamic sentiment.

The authorities have cracked down hard on radical militants to keep the trend in check, while appeasing the overwhelming Islamic sentiment by tightening, for example, strict implementation of Islamic behavior codes, the diplomats said.

It was ironic, they added, that Saudi Arabia was getting most criticism in the West, where radical Islamist exiles who describe themselves as defenders of civil liberties have been waging a campaign to discredit the kingdom.

Little was known, for example, about a former diplomat, Mohamad al-Khilewi, who was reported by his lawyers to have been given political asylum in the US after threatening to expose a catalogue of alleged Saudi human rights abuses and a clandestine nuclear arms program.

But first word of his defection came through a group called the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights, which has emerged as the mouthpiece for Saudi fundamentalist dissent.

The group was set up in Saudi Arabia last year by academics, lawyers and clerics who argued that the Saudi royal house was not as strict as it should be in implementing Islamic teachings.

It has since opened an office in London where it has been actively campaigning against Saudi Arabia on human rights.

Saudi Arabia is run on strict religious lines. Government action is carried out in the name of Islam and Shari'a (religious law) governs the lives of the 12 million Saudis and almost five million expatriates who live and work there.

Fundamentalists at home fume at what they see as a dangerous decline in moral and ethical standards.

"Those people [fundamentalists] who are now shouting about human rights will probably be the first to stone a woman accused of infidelity or call for the blood of anyone like Salman Rushdie or Taslima Nasrin," a Western diplomat said - a reference to campaigns for the execution of the British author of *The Satanic Verses* and the feminist Bangladeshi writer.

(Reuters)

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## Algeria and Morocco in deepening crisis

News agencies

RABAT

THE Moroccan government stepped up a war of words with Algeria this week by accusing its neighbor of being behind the robbery of a Marrakesh hotel in August that left two Spanish tourists dead.

Two Moroccans accused of the crime "were always manipulated by Algerian security services," the ministry added.

Members of the group being interrogated by an examining magistrate in the central city of Fez are suspected of attacking a luxury hotel in the southern city of Marrakesh where two Spanish tourists were shot dead on August 24.

Described officially as "dangerous terrorists," the five gunmen arrested so far are of Algerian or Moroccan origin who lived in France, and international war-warrants have been issued for the arrest and extradition of others.

It was not clear from the ministry's statement whether the wanted men were still controlled by Algeria or only in the past. French investigators have said the gunmen received weapon training at secret sites in France.

ZIAD AND Eddine were sentenced to life imprisonment in their absence in September 1985 by a court in Casablanca where 14 others were sentenced to death after smuggling arms and explosives into Morocco on motorbikes from Algeria.

The crisis between North African neighbors Algeria and Morocco has been deepening amid such Moroccan charges that subversives bent on destabilizing the kingdom are being trained by Algerian security services.

Diplomats said the risk of a break in relations had grown after Morocco demanded visas from visitors of Algerian nationality or origin and Algeria retaliated by closing its 1,200-km. land border.

"Relations were broken off in 1976 for 13 years and it looks as though it could happen again soon," one diplomat said.

PRELIMINARY investigations in Morocco and France had shown that the operations of the two wanted gunmen were "conceived

and directed from abroad" by the two men who "have always been manipulated by Algerian security services," the ministry added.

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The offices of the Student Authority in Jerusalem will also be closed on these dates.

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## Velvet invasion

PRESIDENT Clinton's administration could be said to have borrowed a leaf from the Czech way of effecting change with its velvet invasion of Haiti. US Marines looked a little sheepish as they first took up their classic aggressive attack postures on landing on the Caribbean island, only to struggle to their feet transformed from invaders to peacekeepers.

The clearest impression to emerge from the ocean of news and comment on the operation is "so far so good." Clinton has achieved his stated objective of getting American forces into Port-au-Prince and done it without a shot being fired. This deft employment of military force allied to tough diplomacy should give Clinton's critics pause for thought - though it probably won't. Many of these critics have failed to come to grips with a man who - like him or not - is an intelligent and complex policy maker.

Not for Clinton the card index briefings and shoot-from-the-hip style of Ronald Reagan. Of course complexity can have its disadvantages. Clinton's habit of evaluating detailed knowledge of the issues against state interests, electoral considerations and deployment of the United States' vast resources can seem to lead to indecisiveness. But so far - and it is of course early days - he has even succeeded with the Haiti generals where Bush failed with Saddam Hussein. He has achieved an agreement for the dictator Raoul Cedras to step down and has put his UN-mandated, 15,000-strong task force on the ground. And not one life was lost on the initial phase.

"This is one instance where power has served diplomacy in an absolutely classic way," the usually dour Secretary of State Warren Christopher declared with near euphoria. Clinton was left almost entirely alone, out on a limb, by the public, the media, and sniping political opponents as he calmly wrestled with the dangerous last-minute options in the toughest crisis of his presidency. The gamble forced the intransigent Haitian military leaders to throw in their hand and, for that, Clinton's handling of the crisis is a triumph.

Yet, in a culture increasingly fed on simplistic explanations, declining general knowledge and sound-bite one-liners, a president like Clinton is proving hard for his people to digest. Already there are mutterings that he was "just lucky" over Haiti. That is a dangerous attitude, for it is by no means clear that the luck will hold in this lawless country, and if the Haiti operation turns messy, the administration and its forces will need full-hearted domestic and allied support. Clinton himself has clearly warned that the situation remains

both dangerous and complex.

The Gulf War may have banished the "Vietnam syndrome" inhibiting US military action, but it has been replaced by chilling memories of a shot-down US pilot being paraded through Mogadishu by Somali gunmen. Such a sight in Port-au-Prince, if the followers of Cedras decided to launch an armed resistance, would be hard to stomach so close to home. The fact that Cedras last year reneged on an agreement to step down in favor of the elected government he ousted makes him less than a trustworthy partner.

Also, the deposed Haitian president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, has been less than generous in his backing for the US operation, whose sole aim is to restore him and his ousted government to power. This can only increase suspicions of his solidity as a US ally and Haitian reformer. Clinton and the administration have in the past given plenty of thinly-veiled hints that Aristide would not be their first choice of leader. However, since he was the people's choice in Haiti's first and only democratic election, Washington has no alternative but to accept him. Intervention could not be justified, especially in international law, if it were merely to install an unelected American puppet.

Aristide is of course unhappy that the generals will remain until the mid-October deadline allowed under the agreement. However, it is not in the nature of agreements made by democratic countries to rub an enemy's nose in defeat. The positive side of the time lapse is that it allows the US military and allied police forces to infiltrate the corrupt system and start to put it to rights. Neither may Aristide like the implication that the allied task force will prevent his own supporters from wreaking revenge on the ousted enemy's supporters. But the bottom-line concern of the operation is the reconciliation and freedom of the Haitian people - not simply the mere restoration of Aristide.

Aristide has been less forthcoming than one would expect a Catholic priest to be in calling for forgiveness and reconciliation. Rather than carping at the agreement that saved American soldiers' - and Haitian - lives, he should be on the political front line forcefully rallying his people for a new beginning and a democratic future. Instead, Aristide has stayed in the background and left it to his aides to criticize the fine print of the agreement. Considering it is the American purse that is paying for freeing his country, and it is American troops and foreign police that will risk their lives to rebuild it, Aristide's response so far has been both miserly and uncooperative.



"No one informed us they'd be using unconventional weapons!!!"

## Hitler lives in Moscow

BORIS ALTSHULER

If you are interested in Russian fascism, come to the square in front of the former Lenin Museum in the center of Moscow.

There, you will see the following books for sale: *The Will of Adolf Hitler, Protocols of the Elders of Zion* and *Judes (Kikes)* featuring a Star of David made of human bones on its cover.

You will also see *At the Sources of Hatred: Essays on the History of the Jewish Question*, first published in Munich in 1942, just revised, and a new book by Alexander Barkashov, leader of RNE (Russian National Unity). RNE's symbol is the swastika, and its ideology embraces xenophobia and antisemitism, viewing the world Jewish conspiracy as a global enemy.

Most of the sellers are young fellows, some sporting Barkashov pins. People approach, buy, discuss. Observing this picture in the center of the capital of the country which suffered so much from German fascism, you gradually feel you're going crazy.

It's happening with so many people in Russia nowadays. The Nazi stuff is widely distributed in Moscow, St. Petersburg and other places. Military-type squads are formed, while the authorities look the other way.

At a meeting with US Jewish organizations in Washington on June 21, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said that the struggle against antisemitism was on the agenda of the Russian government.

In reply, leaders of the Moscow Anti-Fascist Center published a statement expressing surprise that ordinary Russians didn't know anything about this program. "What is to be done regarding the activities of RNE and its leader Alexander Barkashov, who openly threatens the Jewish population of Russia with genocide?" they asked. "Will he be stopped from publishing and distributing fascist and antisemitic literature, in particular the direct appeals to physical violence and extermination which are clearly in conflict with the Russian Criminal Code?"

They ended: "We are quite convinced that antisemitism in Russia threatens not only Jews, but Russian democracy too, as well as all the people of our country. We hope that the program of struggle against antisemitism is published

here, and that concrete steps will be taken to combat this evil, a shame of Russia."

At his June 21 meeting in Washington Prime Minister Chernomyrdin said: "While there are certain fascist and ultra-nationalist elements in Russia, they do not influence or determine the policies of the Russian government."

But the role of people at the top remains the most depressing ques-

**The right wing has a strong grip on the top echelon of Russian politics, and open antisemitism is the result**

tion in present-day Russian politics owing to the incomprehensible impotence of the authorities vis-a-vis Nazi and antisemitic activities.

THE *Al Kuds* newspaper is published in Russia by Palestinian millionaire Shaaban Khashe Shaaban. It was officially registered in 1992 by the Committee on the Press of the Russian Federation in violation of existing rules, which do not permit registration of papers published by foreigners.

Shaaban, a citizen of Jordan, has also proclaimed himself chief of the Palestinian government in exile, and threatened to shell Israel with atomic bombs and overthrow the Zionist Yeltsin junta. He is a friend of coup-makers like Alexander Rutskoi and Ruslan Khasbulatov. His highly antisemitic newspaper is distributed in Moscow, especially in the State Duma (parliament).

A typical example: a cartoon of the Russian "Ivan," who was kicked out of everywhere, who does well in the government only after he got himself circumcised (*Al Kuds*, No. 23, 1994).

At the beginning of June, the Office of the Procurator General announced that an official investi-

gation of *Al Kuds* had been launched "because it kindles national hatred." It also demanded that the Press Committee cancel its registration.

Any relief, however, was premature. In July, new issues of *Al Kuds* were available, featuring a big article by history professor Anatoly Volynchenko, who explained how Jews caused plagues in medieval Europe and how "proud Spanish people" cleaned their country of this people (*Al Kuds* No. 41, July 1994).

Another long article showed that the percentage of Jews among leading Russian businessmen was the same as in the US - 25 percent (*Al Kuds* No. 43, July 1994). There was also a picture of Jews crucifying Russia.

The Press Committee has so far ignored the demand by the Procurator General's Office that *Al Kuds*'s registration be canceled. Nor has the Procurator General's Office been very insistent.

Boris Mironov, Chairman of the Russian Government Press Committee, is known not only for his sponsorship of antisemitic books; he has also suspended financial support for scientific literature and school textbooks.

Boris Yeltsin has received many letters, including some from prominent academics, demanding Mironov's resignation.

On July 22, we received first-hand unofficial information that this historic event had at last taken place: Yeltsin had signed Mironov's dismissal. But who will take his place?

And why, at the same time, has the Russian president demonstratively visited an exhibition by artist Ilya Glazunov, known for his ultra-nationalistic stand and financial support of chauvinists? Yeltsin bestowed high praise on a painting called "Wake up, Russia" bearing the same ancient Russian inscriptions ("God with us," "Glory to Russia") used by RNE.

One may assume that this visit by Yeltsin reflects the dreadful reality: the right-wing is strong at the top of Russian politics, and Yeltsin has to take it into account.

The writer is a member of the Moscow Helsinki Group, Chairman of the Board of the Moscow Research Center for Human Rights and Chairman of Movement Without Frontiers.

## Jugglers all

JOYCE GABRIEL

A decade ago, a friend of mine wanted to start a company called Time Inc., to be devoted to people who had too much to do.

A mother of three who had chosen to stay at home, she realized just how many two-career couples could use the services of someone who would run their errands, including picking up and dropping off their kids for appointments and after-school activities. She had done some of these errands as favors for working wives and mothers in her neighborhood, and thought there was money to be made in making it a service available to all.

She never did start the company. But the need for that kind of service is still there.

For most two-career couples, even the most mundane of errands can entail the kind of strategic planning usually reserved for a turn-around management situation.

Couples try to develop coping plans. They do all their errands on the weekend. This is a nightmare, because everyone in America seems to have the same idea. From the supermarket to the cleaners, the lines are wall-to-wall.

Many doctors and dentists have never heard of weekend appointments. Lawyers and appliance repair services live in a Monday through Friday world.

Working couples thus live the nightmare of having to cram most activities into weekends, and trying to fit in everything else early morning or late evening. When you throw kids into this mix, chaos can reign, unless you're lucky enough to have a housekeeper or someone to help run the errands.

Suddenly, you have to juggle your appointments and theirs, as well as shoe repair, cleaning drop-off and pickup, haircuts, grocery and clothing shopping, appliance repair, car maintenance, veterinary visits - the list seems endless because it is endless.

And what about school conferences, or open house at nursery school? What about video rental and return? What about soccer games and softball games, band practice and dance class?

Just who is going to do all this, and when are they going to do it? Once again, we're all sociological pioneers, trying to make it all work.

THIS MORNING, I took an hour and a half to: take my son to the dentist, get the sleeves shortened on a new jacket, drop a broken watch off at the jeweler, run to the bank, make sure a new mattress was delivered, then whiz in for a full day of work.

I've heard many male colleagues complaining about the kind of stress women have been bemoaning forever. These are the guys who try to do their share, only to end up getting caught in the same bind women have been in for years: Too much to do in too little time.

When both spouses work, maintaining a household for two or more means a frantic juggle of chores. Careful planning is the only thing that can help busy people keep their sanity.

I try to plan the week in terms of what has to get done. If I'm using a baby-sitter for part of that week, I'll try to delegate some of those errands to him or her. A couple of weeks ago, I was desperate when my baby-sitter didn't show up on a morning when all three boys had dentist appointments, so I hired the local taxi company to pick them up and drop them off and asked my mother, who lives across the driveway, to go along to chaperone. It may not have been an easy solution, but it worked. Everyone got to the dentist.

When you plan for the week, you can adjust your route to pass the places where you need to run errands - from the post office to the cleaners. You can use lunch hours to pick up overflow chores, such as shopping for school clothes or going to the drugstore.

When you plan for the week, you can also divide the chores between spouses, giving everyone plenty of notice of what's ahead.

Once kids are old enough to walk or ride bicycles into a town or to the local shopping center, they can run some errands for you. They can certainly run out for that extra quart of milk, or for some other badly needed grocery item.

There is no perfect solution. Maybe I'll call my friend, peaceful in retirement now, and tell her the time has come for Time Inc.

(Stamford Advocate)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### ISRAEL'S ECONOMY

Sir, - In a *Jerusalem Post* article on June 8, 1993, I was quoted as stating that the US loan guarantees are damaging foreign investment by projecting an image of Israel as a nation dependent on US charity, instead of a strong economic force.

I said no such thing. Rather, at a symposium in Tel Aviv on June 7, 1993, I said that Israel's dependence on American economic aid, which is normally given only to the poorest countries, projects an image of a weak economy. I recommended that Israel gradually and voluntarily phase out US economic (but not military) aid, and use the guarantees to borrow in international capital markets to replace the aid. Military aid of \$1.3 billion per year would be expected to continue as long as needed for Israel's defense.

I did not correct your report at the

time because I did not think it would draw much attention. But my purported statement has since been quoted by Alvin Rabushka, as well as in a recent *Moment* article by Allison Kaplan Sommer.

For the record, I do not believe that the guarantees damage foreign investment in Israel. Nor would I change the February 1992 testimony I gave to the US Senate favoring the guarantees on economic grounds. I believe that the guarantees should gradually replace economic aid, as a signal that this is an extremely strong and vibrant economy, one that is fully capable of standing on its own feet.

STANLEY FISCHER,  
Department of Economics,  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

### THE TEMPLE MOUNT

Sir, - I would like to thank Stan Goodenough for his very correct and moving op-ed article of August 31, "The Day 1 was banished." The status of the Temple Mount today is truly a national and religious embarrassment. As Mr. Goodenough is amply aware, the politics of the situation are complex, but this is no excuse for not trying.

Sadly, the religious element of Israeli society which has kept the Jewish nation's aspirations close to our hearts for thousands of years has been historically unable to translate those dreams into actions, relying on more secular elements to see the will of God brought to fruition. Personally, I wish there were more I could do than assure Goodenough that there are indeed many of us who see in the current situation the same injustices he described so well. In our own small, grass-roots way, we try to pressure the government and official religious bodies, and bring this issue to the forefront by regular visits to the Temple Mount. In time, I believe and hope, we will change the situation.

Meanwhile I would like to add that there is a Jewish custom, in commemoration for the Temple's destruction, to symbolically damage our own homes. Where this action is not possible, many Jews hang a picture or plaque reminding them that so long as God's home is incomplete, so must ours be. In light of that custom, I am framing and hanging Goodenough's essay opposite the entry to my apartment.

REUBEN BEISER  
Jerusalem.

### PROFOUND GRIEF

Sir, - Thank you for Netty Gross's splendid article of August 5, "You grieve alone, now." I think something has to be done - soon and great. It is impossible to live with the terrorist killings of our people - and in the spirit of peace.

I am sure we are many people who grieve with the families over these tragic deaths. We cannot afford to lose our people that way!

RA'ANANA, DOBA HAJTOWITZ

### EMBEZZLEMENT AT ORIENT HOUSE

Sir, - Your front-page lead story on August 26 claiming that the PLO was investigating embezzlement by Orient House officials represents a dangerous phenomenon in Israeli-Palestinian relations. Bashing Palestinians has become a favorite of the press with the least attention to professional and journalistic ethics.

The story written by Bill Hutman which was totally based on an unnamed Palestinian source said that the case involved a \$5 million investigation. Would the *Post* ever run a similar story about an Israeli official using such flimsy sources? Last year, when the *Post* exposed a corruption case in the Jewish Agency, vast and detailed research was made down to the last credit-card receipt. Simple research into the funding of the Orient House would have revealed how ridiculous this accusation is. Ibril Rajoub, who the *Post* said was carrying out the investigation, ridiculed this claim. He told the French News Agency after the *Post*'s publication that not only was he not investigating the Orient House, but that anyway in the past 15 years, Orient House head Faisal Hussein has not received even \$1m. from the PLO, so how could his aides have embezzled \$5m?

This attitude is not limited to the *Post*. I am not sure if the problem is carelessness or premeditation, but clearly, when the subject is Palestinian, professional judgment is thrown out the window.

Such unprofessional actions damage the work of many of us who are trying hard to fight for the establishment of truly free and professional Palestinian media.

DAUD KUTTAB  
Jerusalem.

Bill Hutman comments:

The Palestinian sources quoted provided detailed information concerning the investigation into alleged embezzlement by PLO officials at Orient House.

## A Palestinian Jerusalem

ELI POLLAK

THE year is 1998, and Jerusalem is praying for mayoral elections. The past two years have seen enormous advances in the "peace process." The Labor-Meretz coalition, having won the 1996 Knesset elections, has recognized the Nation of Palestine.

Jerusalem is to remain a united city, the capital of the State of Israel, but any Palestinian agency - or international agency - may operate independently and officially in the city. International diplomatic activity for both countries takes place in Jerusalem.

The upcoming elections promise to be "interesting." Mayor Olmert is seeking reelection, backed by a coalition of the right-wing parties and the haredi community. His adversary, fielded by the Labor-Meretz coalition, is Minister Shimon Shetret, known for his defense of the unity of Jerusalem. An Arab list is headed by Palestinian Interior Minister Faisal Hussein.

Hussein has struck a public deal with Shetret: if Shetret is elected, he will appoint Hussein deputy mayor in charge of Arab affairs.

Shetret beats Olmert by a fraction of a percentage point. The victory is hailed by "peace-loving" people as a victory of moderation over fascism and Jewish religious fanaticism. What is not known: Labor-Meretz also agreed in secret to repatriate any former Arab resident of Jerusalem.

The Shetret-Hussein mayorship bails a new era in the history of the ancient city. Urban development reaches new heights. Construction in East Jerusalem has done away with all the old blights. The Old City of Jerusalem is considered one of the seven wonders of the world. The growth in Arab population is conveniently overlooked.

Five years pass, and Jerusalem is again in for a mayoral race. This time, there are no secret agreements. The major candidates are Shetret and Hussein. Who will win?

Is this scenario realistic? Primo

First, it's the theater of the absurd. Then the scene of tragedy, as the PLO runs the municipality

Levi said, "What has happened once may repeat itself." Did we believe an Israeli government would sign the Oslo accords and ratify them in the Knesset with the aid of Arab MKs?

SELF-DELUSION is a well-known pastime of politicians. But Jerusalem can't afford it. Steps must be taken - now - to ensure a united Jewish city. Its Jewish population must be increased.

Large communities such as Mevaseret Zion, Givat Ze'ev and Ma'aleh Adumim should be annexed. Industrialization must proceed at a swifter pace. There must be incentives to lure Israelis back to the capital. A Jewish Jerusalem Fund should be established with the sole purpose of increasing the city's Jewish population. A true 3,000th anniversary celebration of Jerusalem would be marked by the 500,000th Jewish resident of the city.

The Oslo Accords allow the Arab residents of Jerusalem to

vote for the Palestinian entity. Israeli law allows any permanent resident of Israel to participate in municipal elections, even if he or she is not a citizen of the state.

This could lead to an absurd situation: Palestinian government officials legally running the Jerusalem municipality. Legislative initiative in the Knesset to change this situation is imperative.

The Palestinian entity calls for the destruction of the State of Israel and isn't about to relinquish its "legitimate rights" in Jerusalem. But our laws give the Palestinians the best of both worlds: they can achieve their goals legally.

Our self-anointed intellectuals will argue that denying them voting rights in the municipality would be undemocratic. But in many Western countries, permanent residents do not have the right to participate in municipal elections.

If Arab residents of Jerusalem want to play a part in municipal affairs, they must first be made to take an oath of allegiance to the State of Israel and cancel all formal association with the Palestinian state. They must be Israeli citizens. Palestinian and Israeli citizenship should be made mutually exclusive.

We must wake up before it is too late. Merely fighting current Palestinian violations of the Oslo Accords in Jerusalem isn't enough. These are minor, compared to the damage the PLO can do using legal means.

Today, the unity of Jerusalem is still a matter of consensus. Tomorrow, it will become an "obstacle to peace."

The writer is professor of chemical physics at the Weizmann Institute and a board member of the Association of Professors for a Strong Israel.

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# Women still seek freedom in new South Africa

JACQUI MYBURGH  
JOHANNESBURG

NORA is a 42-year-old mother of three who runs a center for the mentally handicapped north of Pretoria.

She is also trapped in a marriage to an alcoholic who she believes has abused one of her daughters but whom she cannot escape because of Tswana tribal law.

Nora is one of millions of South African women who, although politically liberated by the April elections that signaled the dawn of democracy in this country, still face a mammoth battle for sexual equality.

As a result of the euphoria gripping the new black-ruled South Africa, more and more women of all races are venting their frustrations.

Nora says she wishes for nothing more than divorce, but her husband's family will not allow it and she complies.

"In Tswana law, marriage is from God," she says.

Now, the powerful lobby of South African women is fighting for the rights of rural and urban women and has spelled out its grievances and demands in a Women's Charter.

The 12-page document was recently presented to President Nelson Mandela and to the national parliament in Cape Town.

The charter, drawn up after months of surveys and discussions to establish South African women's needs, makes it clear they are determined to take advantage of the country's transformation.

Women are calling for all political leaders to heed the Women's Charter and bring their influence to bear on the country's new constitution, to be completed by May 1996.

"The whole country is creating new laws, and democracy is unfolding," says Jean Ngubane, convenor of the National Women's Coalition (NWC) that drew up the charter. "This is a good time to present women's needs."

The NWC represents 92 national women's organizations, ranging from the African National Congress Women's League to the Af-



The lot of South African women in cities is somewhat better than that of rural women, who are subject to harsh, and often sexist, tribal laws. (Brian Hendler)

rikaans Women's Agricultural Union.

But Ngubane says despite their increasing organization, the 18 million South African women have a long way to go before achieving sexual equality.

Although women in the cities face discrimination in areas such as politics, business and education, the biggest challenge lies in rural areas, where millions of women have to comply with harsh, and often sexist, tribal laws.

"Customs and traditional laws have to be subject to human rights," Ngubane asserts.

The NWC sees affirmative action as the most effective means of achieving gender equality in urban areas.

"Women claim involvement in decision-making and full participation at all levels and in all aspects of the formal and informal economy," the charter states, and effective affirmative action is recommended as the means of achieving this.

But as far as customary laws are concerned, only an equality clause in a Bill of Rights and making rural women aware of their rights can make a difference.

Many of the women involved in the establishment of the Women's Coalition have made their mark in the political and business world.

The original convenor of the NWC, Frene Giniewski, now holds the powerful position of parliamentary speaker.

And in the driving seat at the South African Broadcasting Cor-

poration, once the bastion of the white Afrikaner male, is Ivy Matsepe-Casaburri, chief researcher of the Women's Charter and one of the strongest campaigners for anti-discriminatory laws for women.

The women's movement is not limited to women from the traditional liberation organizations such as the ANC Women's League, led by Winnie Mandela, the president's estranged and outspoken wife.

The 20,000-strong Women's

Agricultural Union represents mostly Afrikaans Christian women and, having been established 70 years ago, brings with it a strong history of Afrikaans tradition.

Magdie de Kock of the Transvaal branch stresses that although the Women's Agricultural Union endorses the Women's Charter in its entirety, the union has no political agenda.

"We see women's rights from the human and not the political point of view," de Kock said. (Reuters)

## Artificial stupidity: Computer's bad jokes

CHRISTINE MCGOURTY  
LONDON

IT had to happen. A one-time comedian who now studies artificial intelligence has developed a computer that tells jokes.

They are simply terrible - the sort of jokes that could endanger a comedian's life if told on the stage.

One of the better ones is: What do you get when you cross a sad emotion with a stag? A broken heart.

One of the worst: What kind of device has wings? An airplane hangar.

And one of the computer's first efforts could not be classed as a joke at all: What do you get when you cross a person with a thing? A person thing.

"That was a bit of a mistake," said Kim Binstead of Edinburgh University, who developed the computer program, Jape 1, with her research supervisor, Graham Ritchie. "There was something wrong with the program."

But even when fixed, the computer won few laughs among 20 adults selected as guinea pigs. Two hundred of its jokes were rated on a scale from zero to five, and the average score was a mere 1.8.

Binstead, a former comedian who has just completed the first year of postgraduate studies, was not disheartened. "That was about what we expected. Part of the problem was that we tried them on adults. I'm sure if we'd tried them on kids they'd have been rated much higher."

"And I suspect if we'd mixed them up with jokes of the same type from some joke books, those written by humans would have fared equally badly."

She said the most heartening result was to find that some of the judges claimed to have heard Jape's jokes before, particularly its "cereal killer" range. These, answered with a "serial killer" pun, included: What do you call a murderer that has fiber? And: What do you call breakfast food that murders people?

The jokes were created by supplying the computer with a lexicon of words and meanings and a set of rules about how to make them into something (allegedly) funny.

To make it easier, the researchers restricted the project to simple riddles. In many of those, the humor revolves around substituting words or part of words.

The results of the first year of development were recently presented at a conference in the US. In a report for the conference, the researchers concluded: "Although there is certainly room for improvement in Jape 1's performance, it does produce recognizable jokes in accordance with a model of punning riddles, which has not been done successfully by any other program we know of. In that, it is a success."

(The Daily Telegraph)

## New drug cure lets addicts undergo painless 'cold turkey'

RICHARD BASTIN  
SEVILLE

A painless, one-day drug treatment, pioneered in Seville, enables addicts to go through withdrawal symptoms in an intense burst while unconscious, thus avoiding the dreaded "cold turkey."

Psychologist Juan Jose Legarda, the man behind the breakthrough, says the accelerated detoxification method can help even hardened heroin and cocaine users to give up drugs.

His claims are backed by a success rate of more than 90 percent among the 350 patients he has treated since 1992 in the CITA drug clinic in this southern Spanish city.

Legarda says only half of those who enroll in traditional drug treatment programs ever finish the course, while 30 percent of addicts never even seek help because of fear and the inability to cope with withdrawal symptoms.

The new process uses the chemical naltrexone, which speeds the physical reaction to withdrawal so that it occurs in a compressed time frame, usually not exceeding four hours.

Patients are anesthetized and placed in an intensive care unit

where they are monitored throughout the treatment.

"Experiencing such intense effects while conscious would be terrible, like open-heart surgery without anesthesia, so we decided to try anesthesia," said Legarda, who holds a doctorate in addiction treatment from London's Maudsley Hospital.

Upon waking, Legarda says, patients are drug-free with minimal side effects. Some complain afterwards of stomach and muscle problems which had previously been masked, because heroin itself is a powerful anesthetic.

Addicts tempted to go back to drugs find themselves disappointed as the "high" is countered by a daily dose of naltrexone, which, with counseling, continues for a year after the crash detoxification. "After a couple of weeks, I bought some heroin because I was bored, but nothing happened, it was a waste of money," said one of Legarda's former patients.

Legarda took most of his early patients from Tocina, a small town of 8,000 people 40 km east of Seville. The first addicts seeking help were introduced to him by the local priest.

Some 60 percent of those who complete standard rehabilitation courses go back on drugs a year later, Legarda said. In comparison, only two out of 37 addicts from Tocina are back on drugs after an average of 20 months following treatment.

The high success rate complements strong economic arguments in favor of the new technique. Legarda charges 250,000 pesetas (\$1,900) for the cure. Traditional in-patient treatments require a 10-day hospital stay costing at least 50 percent more.

No lasting physical or psychological side effects have been found and the patients are amazed by the results.

"My whole world was heroin. It was the only thing I could think of. The cure has been a complete miracle," said Legarda's first patient, 23-year-old Juan, who spoke to Reuters in Tocina.

Word of Juan's cure spread

quickly among addicts in the town; most of whom had already tried conventional detoxification methods without success.

Spurred on by the news that the "living hell" of withdrawal symptoms could be avoided, more and more took the treatment until even the local drug pusher, who found himself unemployed, tried Legarda's method.

The cured addicts view Legarda as a savior.

Some locals founded a group called Aurora (dawn) to help former addicts. They say Tocina is now a drug-free oasis.

Legarda has opened private surgeries in Madrid, Barcelona, San Sebastian and Tel Aviv, where several of his patients are Israeli army veterans who developed addictions to powerful medicines used to treat war wounds.

Legarda says the new technique can be used to cure any opiate addict. In one extreme case, a

Spaniard who took eight grams of heroin a day, 20 times as much as most addicts, was cured after an 8½-hour sedation.

Despite the success of the treatment, Legarda has struggled for recognition in Spain. He blames government reluctance to implement a private-sector project and resentment from physicians who regard him as an outsider.

He said he had met a cool reception from the Andalusian regional government and from Spain's National Drugs Plan.

Psychiatrist Jose Valle Cabrera has worked in conventional drug rehabilitation and knows about the Legarda treatment.

"This is not a major breakthrough, not like the invention of penicillin for example," he said. "Nevertheless, it is very useful in the first stage, which is detoxification. The cold turkey isn't that

difficult to overcome, it normally doesn't last more than a few days. What does take longer is the process of losing the habit."

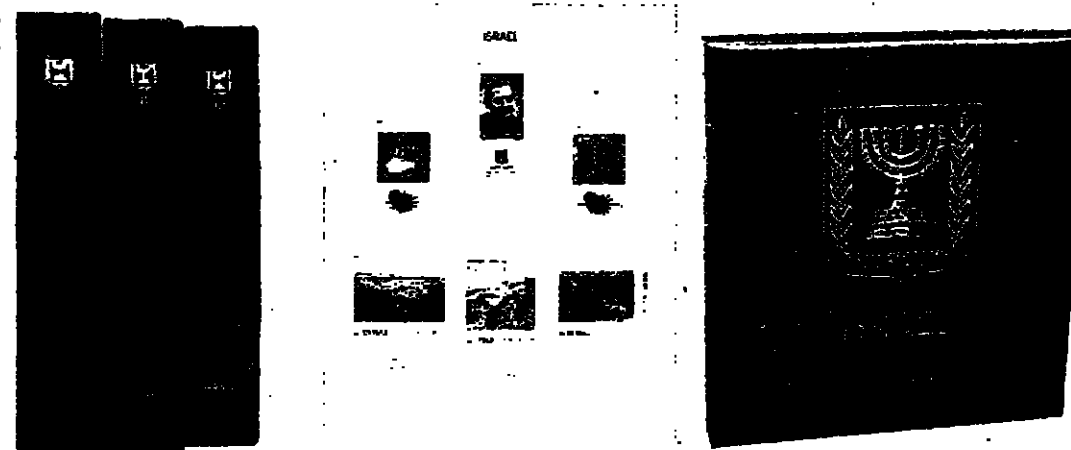
Research by Dr. Miguel Casas of the CITRAN Foundation in Barcelona suggests that the mental imprint of the association of drugs with feeling good could last as long as 25 years.

The nature of the Legarda treatment means it can also represent a first step towards losing the habit," said Cabrera, adding that other places have tried naltrexone, but not in such a compressed time frame.

In Tocina, the effects of Legarda's work are clear.

"You can certainly see the difference. Drug-related crime around here has gone down considerably," said a member of Tocina's Civil Guard. (Reuters)

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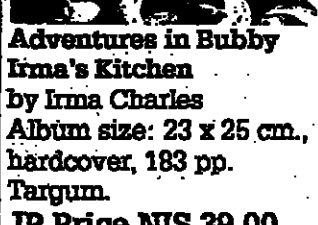
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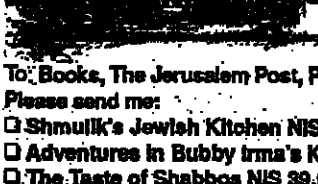
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## BUSINESS &amp; FINANCE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1994

## Peres: Israel to propose ME development bank

ISRAEL will propose the establishment of a Middle East development bank at the Casablanca economic conference next month, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said on Monday.

The bank, based on the model of the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development which was created to rebuild the post-communist economies of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, would be a major source of financing for joint projects in the region.

According to Peres, cooperative projects in the area provide the best antidote against Islamic fundamentalism.

"The best weapon against Hamas is economic," he said. "The more the standard of living rises in

the region, the more violence will drop."

Peres, who met with economic correspondents in his office on Monday, talked about his vision of a Middle East transformed and rebuilt on economic cooperation.

He rejected criticisms which do not give much weight to economic benefits to Israel from business relations with the Arab states.

"There are no experts today," said Peres. "All the Kremlinologists did not know what was really happening in the Soviet Union, and who knew a few years ago that Indonesia, China and the other Asian tigers would be the fastest-growing economies."

Investing in and developing the

region's economy is at least as worthwhile as spending money on defense, and improving the area's economy is the best means of dealing with the potential dangers to stability, he said.

The Casablanca conference, opening on October 31, will be attended by hundreds of senior government officials worldwide.

Several hundred multi-national corporations, mostly from the US, Europe and Japan, will also attend, each contributing \$100,000 for their participation.

In addition, about 50 Israeli companies will take part.

One of the expected outcomes of the conference will be the establishment of several investment centers that will match investors to projects, Peres said.



Peres: The best weapon against Hamas is economic.

Israel will propose 150 possible regional development projects, about half of which relate to water. These projects will require approximately \$25 billion in investments over a period of between five and 10 years.

Peres said he will ask every country to provide guarantees to their local firms that invest in the region.

## Shapiras told not to sell shares in Textile Center

TEL AVIV District Court Judge Yishai Levi on Monday issued an injunction forbidding MK Avraham Shapira and his wife Tovah from disposing of their shares in Textile Center, part of the Carmel Carpets conglomerate.

The injunction was requested by attorney Yossef Cohen and accountant Ovadia Blass, the liquidators of Carmel. A full hearing, in the presence of both parties to

the dispute, has been scheduled for October 11.

The liquidators claim Shapira is selling off assets associated with the conglomerate to prevent them from gaining control of them.

The liquidators contend that in September 1978, Carmel purchased shares in Textile Center, giving it the right to space on the 13th floor of Tel Aviv's Textile Building.

In October 1984, half of another floor was purchased by Tovah Shapira, using money loaned to her by Carmel but never repaid, they said.

They also contend that at the same time Carmel "sold" its shares in Textile to Tovah Shapira for NIS 54,760, even though they were worth NIS 248,000. They also said there is no record she actually paid for the shares. (Him)

## Egypt wants to start exporting natural gas to Israel by 1998

NICOSIA (AP) - Egypt hopes to begin exporting natural gas to Israel and the Gaza Strip in 1998, the Middle East Economic Survey reported Monday.

The project depends on the finalization of a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement, but the attitude in Cairo is that the settlement is moving ahead and so is the development of a gas pipeline, said the newsletter, quoting unidentified sources.

The pipeline will begin west of Port Said and run across the Sinai to El-Arish, Gaza, Tel Aviv, Haifa, and later to Lebanon and Turkey, said the newsletter.

Egypt and Israel reached a preliminary agreement on the gas exports last month during a three-day visit to Israel by Egyptian Energy Minister Hamdi Banhi, said MEES. No sales or purchase agreements have been signed, but much of the preparatory work is already under way, it said.

In addition to preliminary steps toward the establishment of a joint-venture pipeline company to transport the gas, an offshore gas field in the Mediterranean has

been dedicated to the project, MEES reported.

The field has proven reserves of between six trillion and seven trillion cubic feet, it said.

It said Israeli requirements of Egyptian gas have been estimated at 200 million cubic feet a day in 1998, rising to 300 million cubic feet a day in 2000 - all for power generation.

In 2005, when gas will be used for both power and industry, Israel's demand for Egyptian gas is expected to rise to 600 million cubic feet a day, said MEES.

## Treasury seeks deal on COL wage adjustment

THE Treasury is proposing a package deal to the Histadrut and employers which will cut the next Cost-of-Living wage adjustment by over two percent in return for reducing the health tax by 1.5% and National Insurance Institute worker's tax by 0.5%, Ha'aretz reported on Monday.

A Treasury spokesman confirmed the report last night, saying it was mostly accurate. He noted, however, that negotiations have yet to begin.

The proposal is aimed at lowering employ-

ers' labor costs to hold down inflation, without hurting the workers' income. According to a highly placed source, the tax cut will be financed by the new tax on stock market profits.

The Histadrut is currently negotiating with employers a new Cost-of-Living wage adjustment agreement to replace the existing one, which expires at the end of the year.

The Treasury's proposal aims to be neutral so that whatever the workers give up in Cost-

of-Living compensation is made up by lower taxes. The health tax imposed by the National Health Law is 4.8% of wages for most employees. Under the Treasury's proposal it will be brought down to 3.3%. Similarly, employee NII taxes will drop from 5.35% of wages to 4.90%.

The 0.5% NII employee tax cut was already included in the Treasury's budget proposal, but Treasury officials are now claiming the decision was not final and was subject to negotiations with the Histadrut.

## Major: Saudi trip boosts chances for British deals

ABU DHABI (Reuters) - Prime Minister John Major is confident his brief stopover in Saudi Arabia has improved British firms' chances of winning more lucrative contracts, senior British officials said on Monday.

No deals were clinched on the 16-hour visit, but officials said Major was impressed by King Fahd's assurance that Saudi Arabia, Britain's biggest Gulf market, would continue to look to it as one of its main defense and civilian suppliers.

Major, concerned that other countries are trying to elbow their way into traditional British markets in Saudi Arabia, made a special pitch to King Fahd on behalf of four companies.

Rolls Royce Plc and its bid to sell aircraft engines and maintenance services to Saudia, the national flag carrier.

Westland, which wants to sell its Merlin anti-submarine helicopter. Saudi Arabia, like other Gulf Arab states, is concerned by Iran's acquisition since 1992 of two Russian submarines.

Davy McKee Stockton, which is bidding to build a huge steel plant for the Saudi Iron and Steel

Co (Hadeed).

British Aerospace Plc, which is trying to sell to the Saudi royal flight.

While Major's lobbying for these contracts may pay off in the longer term, officials said the most immediate result of his trip was King Fahd's acceptance of a British offer to advise Saudi Arabia on its putative privatization program.

Anthony Nelson, a Treasury minister accompanying Major, said British civil servants and private sector experts would go to Saudi Arabia to explore what help Britain, with extensive expertise in privatization gained over the past 15 years of Conservative rule, could offer.

King Fahd floated the idea of limited privatization of the kingdom's extensive public sector earlier this year, and Nelson said the first candidates could be health care, the electricity sector and the national airline.

He said Saudi Arabia, rebuilding currency reserves run down during the 1991 Gulf crisis, was also interested in Britain's initiative to channel private finance into building roads and other public infrastructure.

## US July trade gap soars

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The US trade gap soared 21.6 percent in July to \$10.99 billion as a strong domestic economy drew in imports while exports sagged, pushing the controversial deficit with Japan even higher.

The Commerce Department said yesterday that weak foreign sales of new aircraft and costlier imported oil pushed up the deficit.

Japan accounted for half the total shortfall. The deficit with Tokyo rose to \$5.67 billion, the highest since a \$5.8b. gap in March. The report came only days before a September 30 deadline for progress in trade talks between the two nations.

The sharp rise in the trade gap hit markets hard, with Wall Street, US Treasury bonds and the dollar all sharply lower.

White House economist Laura Tyson had warned Monday that despite "some promising signs" in long-running Japan-US trade talks, it was still proving excessively difficult to open Japan's markets to more US-made goods.

Washington has threatened sanctions unless Japan changes its trade rules so American firms can compete on easier terms.

Clinton administration officials played down the weaker-than-ex-

pected trade performance, claiming July was affected by special factors that did not point to a faltering economy.

But a weaker dollar increases the possibility that Federal Reserve policymakers decide that higher interest rates are needed to attract the foreign investment necessary to support the currency.

The Commerce Department said exports contracted in July by 3.2 percent to \$56.47b. from \$58.36b. in June, while imports posted a third straight monthly increase, up by 0.1% to \$67.46b. from \$67.40b.

Nearly 60% of the July drop in exports was due to weaker sales of civilian aircraft, which fell \$1b. from June to \$841 million in July, the lowest level since November 1989, when \$500m. worth were sold overseas.

The cost of imported petroleum products jumped to \$5.03b. in July from \$4.70b. in June as the price per barrel of imported crude oil rose to \$16.06 from \$15.14.

Commerce Secretary Ron Brown said aircraft manufacturers "went on hiatus in July" because of slack orders, while the change-over of auto factories to make 1995-model cars meant fewer components were exported to Canada

for assembly there.

"These factors are not indicative of the economy's long-term trend," Brown said, because exports remain above year-ago levels. But he noted they occurred when the trade deficit already is "exacerbated by growth differentials between the US and its trading partners that have persisted for too long."

A strengthening US economy draws in foreign-made consumer goods, while slow-growing Europe and Japan are poor customers for American products.

The US typically runs a surplus on its trade with other countries in services such as travel and tourism, partly offsetting persistent big merchandise trade deficits.

In July, the deficit on merchandise alone jumped to \$15.70b. from \$14.02b. in June - the highest monthly shortfall since the department started calculating it on the current basis at the beginning of 1992. The surplus on services fell slightly, to \$4.71b. from \$4.98b.

That was evident in July's higher \$2.37b. deficit on trade with Western Europe, up from \$1.82b. in June. The gap with Canada, the United States' single largest trading partner, was up to \$1.29b. from \$1.26b. in June.

## Wang buys Bull's systems business for \$160 million

LOWELL, Mass. (Reuters) - Wang Laboratories Inc., the re-energized former computer maker that came out of bankruptcy a year ago, said yesterday it is buying the service and systems integration business of French computer maker Cie Des Machines Bull for \$160 million.

Under the agreement, Lowell, Massachusetts-based Wang will pay Bull \$110m. in cash, \$25m. in Wang stock and \$25m. in short-term notes.

The deal calls for Bull to fold its US field maintenance services business into Wang's and to turn

over its subsidiaries in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Mexico to the American company.

Wang said it would become one of the world's largest multi-vendor maintenance service companies as a result of the deal.

"Wang and Groupe Bull are building a long-term strategic partnership which... will foster both companies' business strategies and will most importantly give better service to our respective customer bases and again help the long-term profitability and financial viability of both companies," Wang chairman and CEO Joseph Tucci said.

The deal will make Bull a long-term Wang stockholder, with a 4.9 percent stake.

Axel Leblais, chairman and chief executive officer of the US unit Bull NH Information Systems Inc., will sit on Wang's board and Wang's Strategy and Technology Committee, the companies said.

Wang emerged from Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection last September after negotiating an agreement with its creditors.

The company fought its way back from bankruptcy by ridding itself of \$500m. in debt, selling office space and shedding more than 3,000 workers.

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## BUSINESS BRIEFS

500 homes in Ofakim sold: Five hundred one-story homes were sold in the past week as part of a joint campaign of the Ofakim local council and the Housing Ministry.

Another 400 homes are still for sale in Ofakim's Shapira neighborhood. The 120-square-meter homes, built during the ministry's drive to provide immigrant housing, were sold for about \$45,000 to IAF personnel serving at the nearby Hatzorim base. The remaining homes will be offered to the general public.

Amir Rosenblut

Rezoning plan approved: The Israel Lands Administration's council, headed by Housing Minister Binjamin Ben-Eliezer, unanimously approved on Monday the revision in rezoning agricultural land in the center of the country for building and other purposes.

Under the plan, revised on the recommendation of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, farmers will receive between 22 percent and 29 percent compensation for the lands' sale value. They will not be entitled to any additional compensation.

## WORLD BRIEFS

Pearson plans big revamp of publishing, breaks up Longman: Media and leisure group Pearson Plc said yesterday it plans to break up its Longman publishing house in a big restructuring. It will merge Longman's educational publishing operations with its US textbook publisher Addison-Wesley, creating one of the world's three biggest educational publishers with annual revenues of more than \$360 million.

Longman's business and professional publishing operations, accounting for about 40 percent of its sales, will be merged with similar businesses in Pearson's Financial Times Group.

Reuters

Tesco tops rivals as new strategy brings success: British supermarket giant Tesco Plc announced an 8.1 percent rise in first-half profits yesterday as its revamped trading strategy pushed the group ahead of its chief supermarket competitors. The country's second largest food retailer, which also owns store chains in northern France and Hungary, reported pre-tax profits for the 24 weeks to August 13 of £250.2 million compared with £231.4m. on 17.3 percent higher sales of £4.7 billion.

Reuters

Nike profits drop: Profits at Nike Inc. slipped in the latest quarter, the athletic footwear company reported, but orders for the next few months have jumped 28 percent, marking a resurgence in the firm's business. Net income for Nike's first quarter, ended August 31, was \$106 million compared with \$114.1m. from a year ago.

Reuters

GE denies rumors of talks with Time Warner: Amid a swirl of rumors that it is trying to sell all or part of its NBC television network, General Electric Co. denied it was in talks with Time Warner Inc. about a possible purchase of the media giant.

First Interstate to cut 3,000 jobs, take \$165 million charge: First Interstate Bancorp., in the midst of a restructuring effort launched in March, said yesterday it will cut 3,000 jobs within 18 months and record a charge of \$165 million over the next year. The moves are aimed at producing annual cost savings of \$167 million, the Los Angeles-based banking company said.

Reuters

## ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (18.9.94)			
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.250	4.225	4.200
U.S. dollar (\$100,000)	4.125	4.100	4.075
German mark (DM 200,000)	4.125	4.100	4.075
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	3.000	2.975	2.950
Yen (10 million yen)	0.750	0.675	1.125

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

## Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates\* (20.9.94)

CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES	
Currency	Rate	Currency	Rate
U.S. dollar	3.370	U.S. dollar	3.370
German mark	3.088	German mark	3.088
French franc	1.895	French franc	1.895
Japanese yen (100)	4.714	Japanese yen (100)	4.714
Dutch guilder	0.574	Dutch guilder	0.574
Swiss franc	3.011	Swiss franc	3.011
British pound	1.721	British pound	1.721
Spanish peseta	2.267	Spanish peseta	2.267
Italian lira	0.401	Italian lira	0.401
Norwegian krone	0.421	Norwegian krone	0.421
Denmark krone	0.451	Denmark krone	0.451
Portuguese escudo	0.025	Portuguese escudo	0.025
Canadian dollar	2.214	Canadian dollar	2.214
Australian dollar	2.221	Australian dollar	2.221
S. African rand	0.840	S. African rand	0.840
Belgian franc (10)	0.543	Belgian franc (10)	0.543
Austrian schilling (10)	2.723	Austrian schilling (10)	2.723
Italian lire (1000)	1.915	Italian lire (1000)	1.915
Jordanian dinar	—	Jordanian dinar	—
Syrian pound	—	Syrian pound	—
Yen (100)	3.637	Yen (100)	3.637
Yen (100)	4.583	Yen (100)	4.583
Spanish peseta (100)	2.267	Spanish peseta (100)	2.267

\* These rates vary according to bank. \*\* Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI



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# Rain claims final day of County Championship

LONDON (Reuters) - Rain was the only winner on the final day of the County Championship on Monday.

All nine matches were abandoned as draws after persistent rain drenched grounds.

Leicestershire clinched runners-up spot behind runaway winners Warwickshire. Nottinghamshire, their closest challengers, had needed to beat Middlesex at Trent Bridge to finish above them.

Warwickshire's unique treble - they also won the Sunday League title and Benson and Hedges Cup - netted them prize money totaling £140,000.

At Old Trafford: Leicestershire 206 in 63.4 overs and 67-1. Lancashire 338-9 declared in 112.3 overs. Lancashire 8 points, Leicestershire 5.

At Chelmsford: Northamptonshire 404 (A. Lamb 114, K. Curran 62, A. Roberts 51), Essex 197-9 (R. Irani 57, G. Gooch 50, R. Bailey 5-59). Northamptonshire 8 points, Essex 4.

At Nottingham: Nottinghamshire 350-7 declared (C. Lewis 108 not out), Middlesex 52-0. Nottinghamshire 4 points, Middlesex 3.

At Taunton: Somerset 225-4 in 71 overs (R. Haden 95, A. Hayhurst 52 not out, M. Trescott 51) v Derbyshire. Somerset and Derbyshire 1 point.

**Final Championship Table**

Team	P	W	L	D	BL	Pts
Warwickshire	17	11	5	1	0	55
Leicestershire	17	8	7	2	0	32
Nottinghamshire	17	8	5	4	0	31
Middlesex	17	7	7	3	0	27
Northamptonshire	17	7	7	3	0	27
Essex	17	7	7	3	0	27
Surrey	17	7	7	3	0	27
Sussex	17	7	7	3	0	27
Kent	17	7	7	3	0	27
Lancashire	17	6	8	3	0	24
Somerset	17	6	8	3	0	24
Gloucestershire	17	6	8	3	0	24
Hampshire	17	6	8	3	0	24
Yorkshire	17	6	8	3	0	24
Derbyshire	17	6	8	3	0	24
Glamorgan	17	6	8	3	0	24

At Worcester: Worcestershire 351-7 declared in 71.2 overs. Durham 193-2 in 67 overs (S. Hutton 81 not out, J. Daley 60 not out). Worcestershire 4 points, Durham 3.

At Hove: Sussex 226 in 76.4 overs and 181-8 (A. Wells 55, P. Moores 55). Yorkshire 246 in 73.3 overs. Sussex and Yorkshire 3 points.

At Gloucester: Gloucestershire 372-9 declared in 111.5 overs. Warwickshire 34-0 in 6.4 overs. Gloucestershire and Warwickshire 4 points.

At Southampton: Hampshire 331 in 117.4 overs. Glamorgan 195-4 in 53 overs. Hampshire and Glamorgan 4 points.

At The Oval: Kent 445 in 106 overs. Surrey 70-1 in 20.2 overs. Surrey and Kent 4 points.

## Final cricket season averages

BATTING									
	M	I	NO	R	HS	Avg	100s	50s	SR
J. Carr	15	25	2	1542	281	90.70	6	3	7
B. Lara	15	25	2	2066	501	88.82	6	3	8
M. Gatting	15	27	3	1677	238	64.70	6	5	5
G. Smith	17	29	1	1747	238	64.70	6	5	5
C. Lewis	12	19	4	881	220	58.73	2	3	3
B. McMillan	9	11	3	467	132	58.37	1	3	3
M. Moxon	17	30	4	1458	274	56.07	4	5	5
S. Rhodes	16	27	1	1538	215	54.92	5	5	5
G. Hick	16	29	0	1579	183	54.44	5	7	7
R. Twose	18	31	5	1411	277	54.26	2	7	7
G. Thorpe	18	28	4	1526	190	54.09	2	7	7
M. Ramprakash	18	28	2	1271	135	52.95	4	6	6
A. Hayhurst	18	30	6	1250	121	52.08	2	10	10
D. Bicknell	18	30	4	1354	235	52.07	3	7	7
C. Hollins	8	10	2	415	131	51.87	1	2	2
P. Cottee	9	9	6	193	181	51.52	1	2	2
A. Miles	11	20	3	863	203	50.76	1	5	5

BOWLING									
	O	M	R	W	Avg	5i	10m		
K. Barnett	54.2	5	73	13	13.30	1	0	2	2
C. Ambrose	54.0	119	113	77	14.45	6	3	3	3
C. Walsh	508.1	67	1084	57	19.01	5	1	1	1
M. McCague	251.5	72	682	33	20.06	3	1	1	1
D. Austin	480.5	108	1345	67	20.07	6	2	2	2
J. Stephenson	591.2	130	1556	80	20.72	1	1	1	1
T. Munton	699.4	181	1748	81	21.58	6	2	2	2
M. Patel	811.2	202	2058	90	22.85	6	3	3	3
C. White	235.2	53	761	33	23.06	2	0	0	0
S. Lampitt	512.4	127	1484	64	23.18	2	0	0	0
A. Coadick	373.1	73	1198	51	23.25	2	0	0	0
G. Langan	226.4	73	494	21	23.52	1	0	0	0
C. Lewis	345.2	69	1082	46	23.52	2	1	1	1
M. Iltis	497.5	115	1391	59	23.57	3	1	1	1
W. Akin	213.5	44	648	27	23.59	2	1	1	1
P. Williams	271.9	39	922	38	24.26	2	0	0	0
P. Benjamin	281	97	585	24	24.37	2	0	0	0
E. Giddins	450.4	89	1463	60	24.38	3	0	0	0
C. Connor	574.4	131	1764	72	24.50	2	2	2	2
D. Gough	479.0	100	1525	62	24.61	3	0	0	0
P. DeFreitas	530	108	1621	65	24.93	4	0	0	0



IRVING (AP) - Jason Hanson, who had two kicks blocked by Leon Lett late in the game, made a 44-yard field goal with 27 seconds left in overtime Monday night to send the Detroit Lions past Dallas 20-17, ending the Cowboys' 10-game winning streak.

It was the first loss for the Super Bowl champions since last Thanksgiving when a blunder by Lett on a blocked field goal attempt allowed the Miami Dolphins to win in the snow at Texas Stadium.

Hanson made his second overtime field goal of the year. He had a 37-yarder against Atlanta in the first game of the season.

Detroit got the ball back with 1:55 left in overtime when Pat Swilling sacked Dallas quarterback Troy Aikman and Broderick Thomas recovered a fumble - the second fumble recovery for Dallas in overtime.

After a 17-yard pass to Brett Perriman and three unsuccessful running plays, Hanson put the winner just inside the right goal post.

Barry Sanders rushed 40 times for 194 yards and Emmitt Smith carried 29 times for 143 yards in a matchup of two of the NFL's most prolific backs.

The loss gave Barry Switzer his first loss as coach of the Cowboys.

**SUNDAY'S GAMES**

Browns 32, Cardinals 0

Buddy Ryan's Arizona Cardinals are looking as ugly as some of those old-time football uniforms teams wore Sunday.

Ryan's move to shake up his team by starting Jim McMahon in place of Steve Benerie did nothing to help the Cardinals offense. He was 19-for-38 for 169 yards with two interceptions before being yanked for Jay Schroeder.

Arizona's ground game produced just 63 yards.

Browns 48, Broncos 16

The folks in Denver can't like what they've seen, either. Quarterback John Elway has thrown interceptions for touchdowns in all three games and the Broncos are 0-3 after a home loss.

Jeff Hostetler threw for 338 yards and four touchdowns as the Raiders offense generated 424 yards. Los Angeles scored on its first four possessions en route to a 28-3 halftime lead.

Denver lost its sixth straight game, and Raiders coach Art Shell improved to 10-1 against the Broncos, never has lost five of its last eight at home.

**Giants 31, Redskins 23**

Dave Meggett ran for two touchdowns and threw a 16-yard scoring pass to Aaron Pierce, carrying host New York's offense in the absence of the injured Rodney Hampton.



HIGH SIX - Cowboys wide receiver Alvin Harper dunks the ball over the 10-foot-high crossbar after scoring against the Lions (AP)

John Elway was 32 of 50 for a career-high 381 yards, with two touchdowns and one interception for the Redskins (1-2).

Dolphins 28, Jets 14

Terry Kirby rushed for 100 yards, and host Miami's banged-up defense got four interceptions.

Dan Marino completed 23 of 31 for 289 yards and two scores for Miami (2-0). Keith Jackson caught six passes for 100 yards and improvised a lateral to Irving Fryar for a TD and a 21-7 lead.

Boomer Esiason threw all four interceptions, completing 22 of 37 passes for 293 yards for the Jets (2-1).

**Chiefs 30, Falcons 10**

Joe Montana tore apart the host Falcons, throwing for 361 yards and two touchdowns. It was Montana's seventh victory in a row in Atlanta, the other six coming when he was with the San Francisco 49ers. It also lifted his career record in starts against the Falcons to 14-5, including 12 of his last 13.

The defense forced six turnovers. The Chiefs are off to their best start since 1966.

Chargers 24, Seahawks 10

Stan Humphries connected with Tony Martin on a team-record 99-yard scoring play to hand host Seattle its first loss.

Humphries completed 19 of 29 passes for 262 yards and one touchdown. Martin caught six passes for 152 yards as San Diego got off to its best start since 1981.

**49ers 34, Rams 19**

Steve Young passed for two touchdowns and scored twice on 1-yard sneaks, and the 49ers broke the game open in the second half.

Jerome Bettis rushed for 104 yards on 21 carries for the Rams, including a touchdown late in the game after the 49ers had taken a 34-13 lead.

**Vikings 42, Bears 14**

Warren Moon completed 22 of 29 passes for 236 yards, restructuring the visiting Vikings offense, which had only one touchdown entering the game.

Chicago had trouble bringing down Terry Allen and containing Kris Carter. Carter had eight catches for 79 yards.

yards in the first half, when the Vikings took a 10-0 lead. Allen, who had two touchdowns runs, gained 159 yards on 22 carries.

**Bills 15, Oilers 7**

Jim Kelly and Andre Reed set up five field goals by Steve Christie.

The visiting Bills got their third straight victory over the Oilers, who started the season 0-3 for the first time since 1984.

**Eagles 13, Packers 7**

Reggie White returned to Philadelphia, where he played eight seasons, to see the Eagles defense register six sacks, two interceptions and a forced fumble.

The Eagles scored on two 26-yard field goals from Ed McCaffrey and a 1-yard run by Randall Cunningham.

His former team limited White to three tackles by double- and triple-teaming him. Green Bay took a 7-0 lead on Brett Favre's 37-yard TD pass to Reggie Cobb.

**Steelers 31, Colts 21**

Barry Foster ran for 179 yards, upstaging visiting Colts rookie Marshall Faulk, who was held to just 61.

Ram Morris, Foster's rookie back-up, had one TD and set up another score, helping the Steelers overcome a 14-0 Indianapolis lead.

## AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

Team	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Miami	2	0	0	1.000	63	46
N.Y. Jets	2	0	0	1.000	48	38
Indianapolis	1	1	0	.500	41	35
New England	0	2	0	.000	29	77

Central

Team	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Cleveland	1	1	0	.500	38	37
Pittsburgh	0	2	0	.000	30	85
Houston	0	2	0	.000	38	85

West

Team	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Kansas City	2	0	0	1.000	54	34
San Diego	2	0	0	1.000	64	44
Seattle	2	0	0	1.000	54	16
Denver	0	2	0	.000	23	88
LA Raiders	0	2	0	.000	23	82

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Team	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Dallas	2	0	0	1.000	54	34
N.Y. Giants	2	0	0	1.000	46	40
Washington	1	1	0	.500	46	52
Philadelphia	1	1	0	.500	23	38
Atlanta	0	2	0	.000	29	35

Central

Team	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Chicago	1	0	0	1.000	21	9
Detroit	1	0	0	1.000	31	34
Green Bay	1	0	0	1.000	31	34
Minnesota	1	0	0	1.000	33	19
Tampa Bay	1	0	0	1.000	33	31

West

Team	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Atlanta	1	0	0	1.000	27	43
LA Rams	1	0	0	1.000	27	43
San Francisco	1	0	0	1.000	61	38
New Orleans	0	2	0	.000	41	85

## MONDAY'S RESULTS

Detroit 24, Dallas 17 (OT)

**SUNDAY'S RESULTS:**

Cleveland 32, Atlanta 8

Buffalo 15, Houston 7

Philadelphia 13, Green Bay 7

Pittsburgh 31, Indianapolis 21

Minnesota 42, Chicago 14

New England 31, Cincinnati 26

New Orleans 9, Tampa Bay 7

Miami 28, NY Jets 16

LA Raiders 48, Denver 16

San Diego 24, Seattle 18

San Francisco 34, LA Rams 19

NY Giants 31, Washington 23

Kansas City 30, Atlanta 10

## Ra'anana sweeps lawn bowls trips

NORMAN SPIRO

THE powerful trio combination of internationals Maureen Hirschowitz, Merle Swerdlow and Isobel Myers was too much for their opponents Roni Wolf, Florrie Cohen and Bernice Sacks, when they won the Annual National Trips Championship at the Savoyon Club.

In an all-Ra'anana final, Hirschowitz's team won 25-10, after a slow start when they were down 7-2 at the 4th end. But Hirschowitz's recognized consistency then predominated, and with good middle support from Swerdlow and accurate leading by Myers, Wolf's team was given very little chance to close the increasing gap.

Full credit is due Wolf, who, skipping for the first time at national level, led her enthusiastic but far less experienced players on the path to the final, sweeping aside more experienced players, including International Molly Skudowitz.

In the men's final, Ra'anana again took top honors. Lawrence Mendelsohn, skipping for Colin Siblert and Kalley Sacks, beat the Kfar Macabiah side of Ralph Rabman, Charles Seligman and Myer Harwitz, 19-14.

In a keenly contested game, Mendelsohn had many saving shots, with Silberstein and Sacks, in particular, giving good support. Rabman's team fought all the way, keeping their opponents on their toes throughout.

On Monday, the National Singles, Pairs and Fours Championships started.

## SCOREBOARD

ISRAELI SOCCER - Maccabi Tel Aviv beat Ironi Ashdod 6-1 in Toto Cup action yesterday.

The Sports Pages are edited by Joe Hoffman

## Gerulaitis death accidental

SOUTHAMPTON (AP) - Vitas Gerulaitis died from carbon monoxide poisoning caused by fumes from a faulty propane heater, authorities said yesterday.

Tests showed that "between 72 and 77 percent of his blood was saturated with carbon monoxide - extremely, extremely high levels," said Norma Dill, assistant to the Suffolk County chief medical examiner.

The 40-year-old former tennis star appears to have been the victim of fumes which seeped into the heating and air conditioning system of a friend's home, Southampton Village police said Monday night.

Gerulaitis' body was found Sunday.

The carbon monoxide was an unexpected discovery in the autopsy, according to a source who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

"It was extremely puzzling, since they thought what they were dealing with was an individual who died of natural causes or a drug overdose, given the individual's history," the source said.

Police said there were no signs of drugs or crime.

Once one of the world's top players, Gerulaitis' pursuit of the



Vitas Gerulaitis died of carbon monoxide poisoning. (AP)

fast lane made him as much a personality off the courts as on the shaved lawns of Wimbledon. Even he conceded that drugs and long nights eventually halted a career that had won him a place among the tennis elite.

Gerulaitis won the Australian Open in 1977 and was ranked as high as No. 3 on the professional tour 15 years ago. He remained in the top ten from 1977 to 1983.

## Ashdod makes cricket semis







## Rabin backs Haberfeld against Ramon

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin yesterday placed himself behind Labor's Histadrut faction, telling Labor's Histadrut faction that Chairman Haim Ramon "cannot fire hundreds of workers without any recovery program in the Histadrut."

He also denied that Ramon was expressing his views when he said the Histadrut should be no more than a trade union, stressing that it is much more than that.

The meeting focused on Labor's charges that Ramon is violating the coalition agreement and acting contemptuously. Labor faction members accused Ramon of "behaving like a dictator, like an African president acting in his private kingdom and doing whatever he wants."

They complained that Ramon does not consult with Labor, and hands down orders through the numerous assistants and secretaries he has employed on personal contracts - in direct violation of Histadrut policy - while at the same time firing hundreds of Histadrut employees. Whenever Ramon doesn't like a section head's opinion, he simply bypasses him, they said.

Faction chairman Haim Haberfeld told Rabin that he "urged us, and rightly so, to transfer control of the Histadrut to Ramon's hands

as quickly as possible, although the constitution enabled us to remain in office months longer. But as soon as Ramon received the chairmanship, he completely ignored the Labor faction. The very constitution he had described as anachronistic and irrelevant has suddenly become most sacred to him, and he is holding onto it in his attempts to appoint his own functionaries in the Arab sector and prevent elections there."

Rabin said Labor's position is very clear in that it regards the Histadrut as much more than merely a trade union. He called it a social movement with health, sports, culture, education, and community services, expressing astonishment at Ramon's way of working. "He can't fire people just like that and cut back without any program or advance plan," he said.

At the end of the meeting it was resolved that Rabin, as head of Labor's negotiating team, would call a meeting with Ramon leaders to sort these issues out. It was also decided that Labor would demand the coalition executive be convened, a move Ramon has been avoiding, and that Ram leaders would attend, to prevent Ramon from sending insignificant officials, as he has tried to do in the past.

## Possible 'Davar' buyers may block Histadrut from selling to others

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE group of investors looking into purchasing Davar is considering seeking a court injunction banning the Histadrut from selling the newspaper to any other bidder until all the details concerning its economic situation are revealed, New York attorney Leon Charney said yesterday.

Charney, who represents the investors, arrived last week to help wrap up the purchase deal. He was referring to the sudden appearance a few days ago of a list of Davar's assets, which had not been mentioned when the investors received a briefing on Davar's financial situation from the Histadrut's representative.

"It is extremely disturbing and confusing that we did not receive this information earlier," Charney said. "We received, together with

Davar's journalists, a deadline to prepare our proposal to purchase Davar by October 31 and it seems to me that this kind of behavior - withholding crucial information - would prevent the journalists from submitting an honest proposal, for without this kind of information we would not be able to determine the situation of the newspaper."

Charney said that perhaps there had been a problem in accounting, "but this is very disconcerting and I hope it was not done to give the advantage to another potential bidder. As an attorney, I believe the court should decide, and forbid selling Davar until all sides get a fair treatment. After all, many lives are at stake here."

Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon was unavailable for comment last night.

## Alzheimer's Day marked by seminar

JUDY SIEGEL

MORE than 50,000 Israelis have been diagnosed as suffering from Alzheimer's disease, and this number is expected to increase as life expectancy lengthens. The progressive, incurable disease will be discussed today at a seminar here marking the first International Alzheimer's Disease Day.

The seminar will be held at Herzog Memorial Hospital in Jerusalem's Givat Shaul section, starting at 10 a.m. Experts will discuss symptoms, Alzheimer's research, and day-to-day care of patients in

their home. The public is invited to attend the free event.

The Israel Alzheimer's Disease Association, established four years ago and including 1,000 members, offers support groups, advisory services, and home care for Alzheimer's patients.

The association enjoyed a victory recently when the Health Ministry agreed to include psychiatric hospitalization in the basket of health services to be established by the national health insurance law.

## Premier preaches peace to visiting Christians

HAIM SHAPIRO

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin may not have brought the participants in the Christian Feast of Tabernacles gathering quite the message they wanted to hear, but they gave him a rousing welcome at the Jerusalem International Convention Center last night.

Some 4,000 Christian supporters of Israel, mostly evangelical Protestants from over 80 countries, clapped, sang and raised their hands in blessing to greet the prime minister, who took time out from his consultations concerning negotiations with Syria to address the gathering.

Alluding to the negotiations, Johann Lukhoff, director of the International Christian Embassy, which sponsors the event, told Rabin of the concern of participants.

"This time we feel more and more of the burden to pray for your nation and for Jerusalem," Lukhoff said from the stage.

Following Rabin's message, Lukhoff said that although there had been no official resolution or statement, most of those present were unhappy about any territorial concessions to Syria on the Golan.

"There has been no official motion, but a majority of our people doesn't favor any withdrawal on the Golan Heights," Lukhoff said afterwards.

Rabin told the gathering that he was moved by their tradition of making a pilgrimage to Jerusalem on Succot. Dwelling on his own



Four members of the worldwide gathering of Christian supporters of Israel participate in a festive celebration Monday at Qumran, near the Dead Sea.

personal connection to Jerusalem, he told them that he was born in the city, and that he commanded the Harel Brigade which sent convoys to the besieged population in the War of Independence.

Stressing the theme of peace, Rabin noted that the name Jerusa-

lem, given to the city by King David almost 3,000 years ago, meant "will see peace."

However, he elicited more applause from the audience when he linked the quest for peace with the right of the Jewish people in the land of Israel.

"There is nothing more important than to see peace in the Holy City and the holy land, a peace based on our belief in the right of the Jewish people to return to the State of Israel," he said.

They were also receptive to his warnings about the dangers of Is-

lamic extremism - "Khomeinism without Khomeini" - which he said extended from Algeria to Malaysia. It was a danger, he noted, which had replaced that of Communist totalitarianism, and one which threatened not only the Jews but moderate Arab regimes.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Rescue team aids stricken hiker

A High School student from Kibbutz Givat Brenner, who fell ill during a school outing in the Nahal Arugot region of the Judean Desert yesterday, was treated by the Kibbutz Ein Gedi rescue team, who then called in an IAF helicopter which took him to Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem.

The boy, Gonen Levi, was stung by a wasp and proved highly allergic. He was originally treated by a medic accompanying the group, but when his condition continued to worsen, the rescue team was called in. Amir Rozenblit

#### 5,000 CIS immigrants due soon

Some 5,000 immigrants from the CIS are to arrive this month on 19 direct charter flights and 58 commercial flights, the Jewish Agency announced Monday.

The agency decided to schedule the special flights because of the cancellation of many flights during the holidays. Since the beginning of the year, 48,553 immigrants have arrived here, 40,925 of them from the CIS.

#### Ban urged against Reform rabbis

Representatives of the religious factions in the Knesset told Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Monday that allowing Reform rabbis to join the religious councils would be a violation of the status quo.

They met with Rabin to discuss the plan by left-wing municipal council members to appoint Reform and Conservative rabbis to the councils. Justice Minister David Liba'i noted that the High Court had ruled against barring Reform rabbis from the councils. Iim

#### Soldiers on leave cautioned

Military Police commander Brig.-Gen. Moti Biran has appealed to parents and soldiers to take extra care when driving, in light of the dramatic increase in road accidents involving soldiers on weekend leave.

Biran noted, however, that the number of accidents among soldiers on duty has been steadily dropping, due in part to safety awareness efforts by the IDF. For example, IDF vehicles are limited to 90 mph even on roads where 100 mph is now allowed. Iim

#### Man dies of gunshot wounds

Pinhas Elishav, 30, who was shot and seriously wounded a month ago, died Sunday night in Beersheba's Soroka Hospital. Police have arrested five people on suspicion of involvement in the shooting, which they believe was related to a financial dispute. Elishav was shot near his home in the Nahal Beza caravan site. Iim

#### Ze'ev Viner dies

Ze'ev Viner, one of the founders of the Histadrut's Mishan organization, died Sunday in Holon. He was 86.

For 50 years, Viner was active in establishing Mishan's welfare activities, including establishing old-age homes and giving aid to orphans and widows. Iim

#### Winning cards

In Monday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the 10 of spades, queen of hearts, queen of diamonds and seven of clubs.

## Detectives nab drug suspects

RAINE MARCUS

TEL AVIV Narcotics Squad detectives continued their war on drugs over the Succot holiday, confiscating heroin from two suspected dealers and LSD squares at an acid party.

The squad, headed by Chief Superintendent Menahem Frank, arrested two suspected drug dealers and a 17-year-old Jaffa youth, whom police suspect was acting on behalf of a family member, after prolonged surveillance.

Detectives recently saw the youth meet with two known dealers from Taiba near his Jaffa home. On Monday, the two men, Mohammed Haj Yihye, 31, and Mahal Gabaria, 29, met with the youth again, and were followed by detectives to the Holon junction.

"They are professionals - they both drove separate cars and

checked the area thoroughly before conducting any deals," said Frank.

A few minutes later the juvenile arrived in his car, and without stopping, hurled two packages through the dealers' open car windows.

The juvenile was arrested when he arrived back at his Jaffa home. He is not cooperating with police and refuses to tell them where the drugs came from.

Haj Yihye and Gabaria were arrested when they reached the Gilon junction on their way back to Taiba. The parcels contained just over a kilogram of pure heroin - probably from the Lebanon - and another 400 grams of harmless powder for mixing with the drugs.

"The heroin costs around \$60,000 wholesale, but is worth nearly \$150,000 on the streets," said Frank.

Early yesterday morning detectives, headed by superintendent Avi Neuman, raided an acid party at Tel Aviv's Dolphinarium attended by around 2,000 revelers, arresting 15 suspected drug users and dealers.

Six detectives, disguised as partygoers, danced to "acid" music, while gathering evidence against young people selling drugs. More policemen mingled outside.

One 17-year-old was caught selling quantities of marijuana and LSD squares. Some 125 grams of marijuana and a number of squares were found in his possession. Two additional minors were also arrested.

## Wiretappers each sentenced to two years in prison

RAINE MARCUS

WIRETAPPER Hani Mizaki and Private investigator Ya'acov Eshel were each sentenced to two years in prison by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court on Monday.

They had been hired by businessmen who suspected their workers were stealing from them, and by jealous husbands spying on their wives.

Wiretapping is a misdemeanor carrying a maximum sentence of one year's imprisonment per charge. The two pleaded guilty to all charges.

Mizaki and Eshel were arrested around two months ago along with their clients and Lea Biderman, a Bezek employee, who later testified for the prosecution.

She had supplied Mizaki with information on the location of the phone exchange boxes of those whose conversations were to be bugged. He would then plant transmitters on the relevant phone lines. Mizaki was employed by Bezek several years ago, where he met Biderman.

The judge Kara also activated a three months suspended sentence handed down to Mizaki for similar offenses, to run consecutively with the new sentence.

"Wiretapping is a complete violation of privacy and offenders should be dealt with accordingly," he said.

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## Woman burned in outhouse methane gas explosion

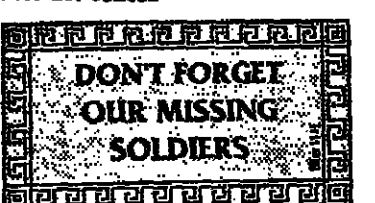
JUDY SIEGEL

A 35-YEAR-OLD woman screaming "the devils are after me" arrived at the emergency room of Haifa's Bnai Zion Hospital last week with first- and second-degree burns on her face and neck.

The woman, who lives in the North, told doctors that she went to the family outhouse in the middle of the night. She said she lit a cigarette lighter and was then "attacked by devils" who caused an explosion and her resulting burns.

The hospital staff, who tried to calm her, realized that the explosion was due to methane gas produced by sewage in the tightly sealed outhouse. When she lit the flame, the gas exploded.

The woman was treated for her burns and discharged before Succot. Doctors stressed that she and her family should air out the outhouse to ensure that methane gas does not collect.



By Courtesy of  
Ha'aretz

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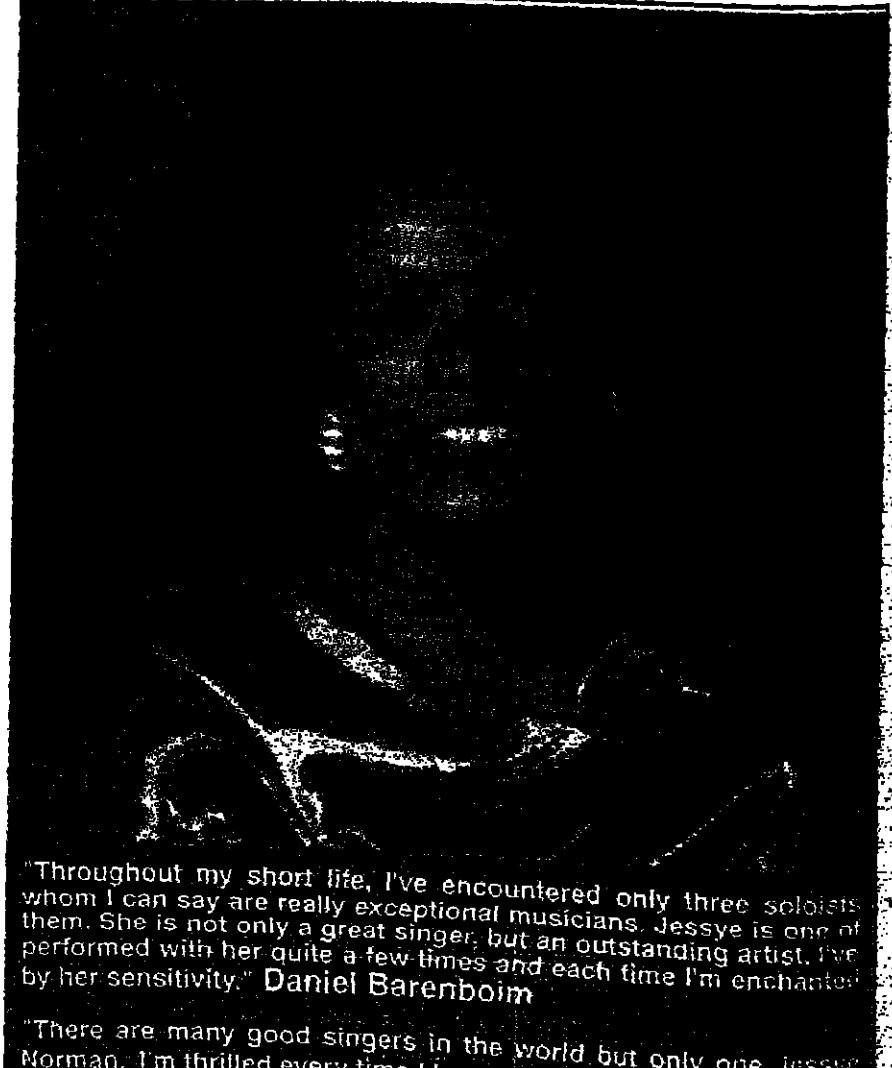
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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1994

## 'Quiet war' against Hamas suffers a setback

Security forces have been on the alert for a Hamas revenge mission in Tel Aviv ever since the Hebron massacre. Wednesday's bus bombing, therefore, came as no surprise, Steve Rodan reports

THE bulletin board next to the reception counter at Tel Aviv police headquarters on Dizengoff Street is covered with leaflets. Some of them contain pictures of missing persons. Others are of fugitives.

Toward the bottom of the board is a picture of a young man. His name is Salah Muhammed. He is wanted for murder. He is identified as a Gaza resident and a member of Hamas.

For the past year, Tel Aviv police and the General Security Service have been engaged in a quiet war against Hamas. Since the February massacre of 29 Moslems at the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron, security forces have been on the alert for a Hamas revenge mission aimed at cinemas, shopping centers or bus stations in Tel Aviv.

So far, they have foiled attempt after attempt through a combination of excellent intelligence and plain good luck.

But on Wednesday, Hamas succeeded in piercing the security net.

Security officials say they were not surprised by the bloody bombing of the No. 5 Dan bus in which at least 21 people were killed on Dizengoff Street. Hamas had the means to launch a major attack: the expertise to plan terrorism; the manpower to launch the mission; the timing to achieve maximum effect.

"It was the week of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty and next week [US President Bill] Clinton is supposed to come," Tel Aviv police chief Gabi Lasker says. "This brings out all the opponents to the peace process. This was the week that we should have been on maximum alert."

Over the past few months, police have been flooded with reports of suspicious objects or people - up to 600 daily. Plainclothes officers prowled through such likely targets as Dizengoff Center, which officials believe was where the Hamas suicide attacker had planned but failed to detonate

his bomb. It was detonated about 200 m. north of the huge mall.

On the eve of Rosh Hashana, security officials were given a reminder of Hamas's plans. A huge blast rocked the Nablus area. It turned out to be a car bomb estimated to contain 60 kg. of explosives and prepared by Hamas. The bomb had been accidentally detonated and it killed several Hamas members. It was similar to the bombs used in several other terror attacks, including the one used in Afula in April in which seven people were killed and 52 injured.

Security sources say Hamas apparently changed its tactic after the failure of September's planned bombing. For this week's attack, Hamas operatives decided it was easier to have a suicide bomber sneak a smaller bomb of between 10 and 20 kg. of explosives in a briefcase. The material used was TNT, rarely seen in attacks in Israel.

OFFICIALS SUSPECT that one Hamas agent has planned all of the recent bombings. He has been identified as Yehya Yaish, 29, from the Katliya region. Yaish is nicknamed "the engineer." He studied chemistry at Bir Zeit University and is said to be an expert in bomb technology.

Yaish is regarded as the No. 1 fugitive in the territories, on the run since early 1992. His picture has been distributed to IDF soldiers at roadblocks in the territories and he has been the target of numerous midnight raids.

Yaish went into high gear with the return of the 400 Hamas supporters, a year after their deportation in late 1992 to Lebanon. There, security sources say, some of them received training from Hizbullah in preparing explosives and using technology to make terrorism more lethal. The sources say the marriage of Hizbullah and Hamas has turned both into far more dangerous groups with



Although security forces have combatted potential terror attacks in Tel Aviv for months, Wednesday's bus bombing proved the danger is very real. (Hanoach Grizsky, Alon Ron/Israel Sun, Rikva Finai)

international connections. Both organizations are supported by Iran.

The suicide bomber in Tel Aviv was well trained for his mission. Officials, quoting testimony of eyewitnesses, said Salah Abdel Rahim al-Souwi, 27, from Kalki-

lya, looked European and spoke passable Hebrew. Minutes before he detonated the bomb, he left his seat so the blast would not be muf-

fled by the high-backed cushion seats of the Dan bus.

"There was no specific alert of this attack," Lasker says. "I differentiate between news and alerts. We had plenty of news but nothing more."

Security officials say Hamas continues to pose a severe problem for the intelligence agencies. The group is highly compartmentalized. It has access to funding from various countries and the backing of a large portion of Palestinians. Yesterday, Hamas issued a videotape showing Souw saying farewell to his family and friends and warning of further Hamas suicide attacks if Palestinian prisoners were not released.

Security services have rarely penetrated Hamas cells or stopped missions in their planning stage. "The biggest problem is obtaining intelligence," says Shimon Romah, a former senior GSS agent who today is a businessman dealing with Palestinians. "It's hard to get to these people who are very ideological."

Romah says fighting terrorism must start with the actual planning stage. This is where the GSS has to be effective. If the GSS fail to uncover the conspiracy, then the terrorists move to the next step - penetrating the ring of deterrence erected by authorities. This means bypassing the numerous police roadblocks or searches meant to foil would-be terrorists.

The last ring of defense is the alertness of the public. Alert residents of Ramat Eyal prevented a huge car bomb from being detonated in that Tel Aviv suburb in 1992. After Wednesday's bomb attack, officials appealed to the public to help search buses for suspicious objects.

The high motivation of Hamas members also makes it unlikely that they will crack under pressure. Such pressure ranges from administrative detentions to deportations to destroying homes. Currently, such measures are not in use and Prime Minister Rabin has urged the cabinet to reinstitute them.

Rabin complained that currently Hamas is under few restraints. He says the Landau Commission has limited GSS investigators from using force to extract from Hamas suspects information that would prevent an impending attack. Modern telecommunications and banking regulations make it difficult to stop the flow of money to Hamas.

THE RESULT is finding easy so-

lutions. One is to pour more resources into policing. The level of police manpower is higher than ever.

Building sites are raided nightly to round up Palestinians staying illegally in Tel Aviv. In 1993, 12,000 Palestinians were arrested for being in the city without a permit.

The deployment of thousands of Palestinian police has not exacerbated Tel Aviv's security problems, officials say. A senior police official says he has not heard of Palestinian police officers staying illegally in Tel Aviv, a problem often encountered in Jerusalem.

Moreover, the community of former collaborators with Israel in Tel Aviv is closely monitored to ensure that they don't switch allegiances and help Palestinian terrorists. "They know that if they start making trouble that's the end of their stay here," the official says.

But officials acknowledge that their efforts are only a drop in the bucket in the fight against terrorism. Police have plenty of other duties to attend to, such as fighting crime and maintaining public order. In a city like Tel Aviv, such tasks remain high priority.

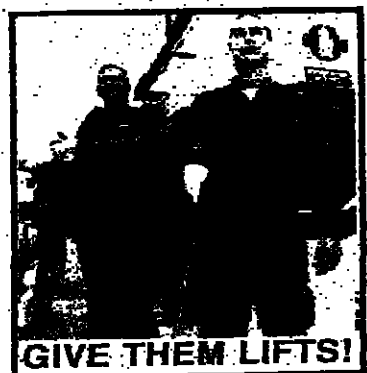
Yonah Alexander, director of a program on terrorism at George Washington University in the US capital, says that Tel Aviv police and even the GSS are powerless to stop terrorism by themselves. He calls for a strategic approach. "This means all-out war," he says. "It's a zero sum game. You have to deal with it, for example, from the legal point of view, such as instituting the death penalty. We need international cooperation. We have to consider different approaches."

Alexander says international cooperation must be based on viewing terrorism as a strategic threat, an attempt by countries to wage low-intensity warfare against Israel and the West.

His best example, he says, is the bombing of the World Trade Center in 1993, in which Egyptian and Sudanese nationals were involved.

Finally, Alexander says, fighting terrorism, whether in Tel Aviv or any other Israeli city, must be consistent with government aims. He says the Israeli accord with the PLO and its embrace of Yasser Arafat have sent a message that terrorism can be fought only with political negotiations.

"This has helped Arafat," Alexander says. "He has got to the top and everyone realizes that terrorism pays."



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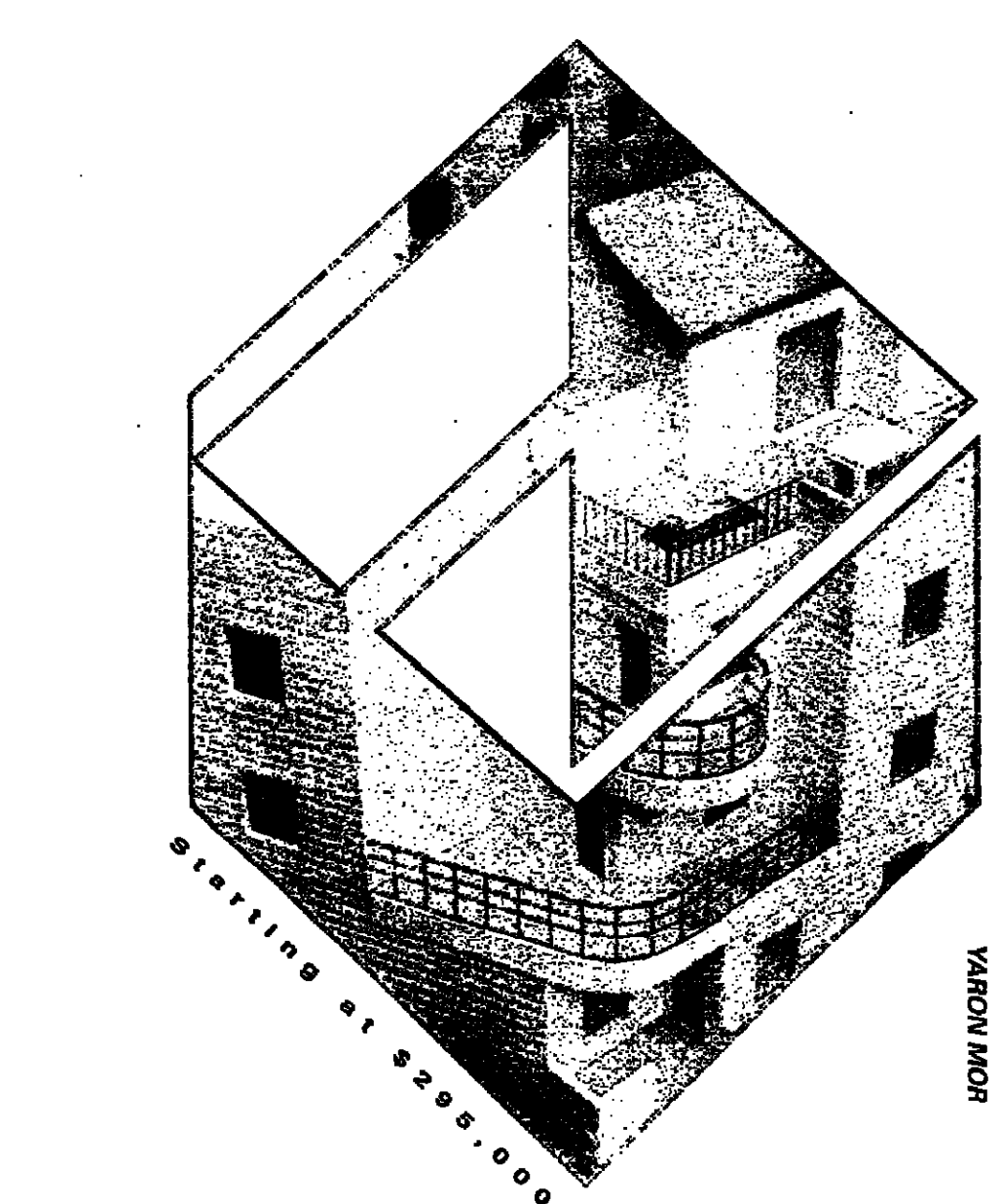
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# Quietly, they talked about water, borders

More than 30 years ago, King Hussein began a secret dialogue with Israel that survived two wars and culminated in the treaty signed this week, Moshe Zak writes

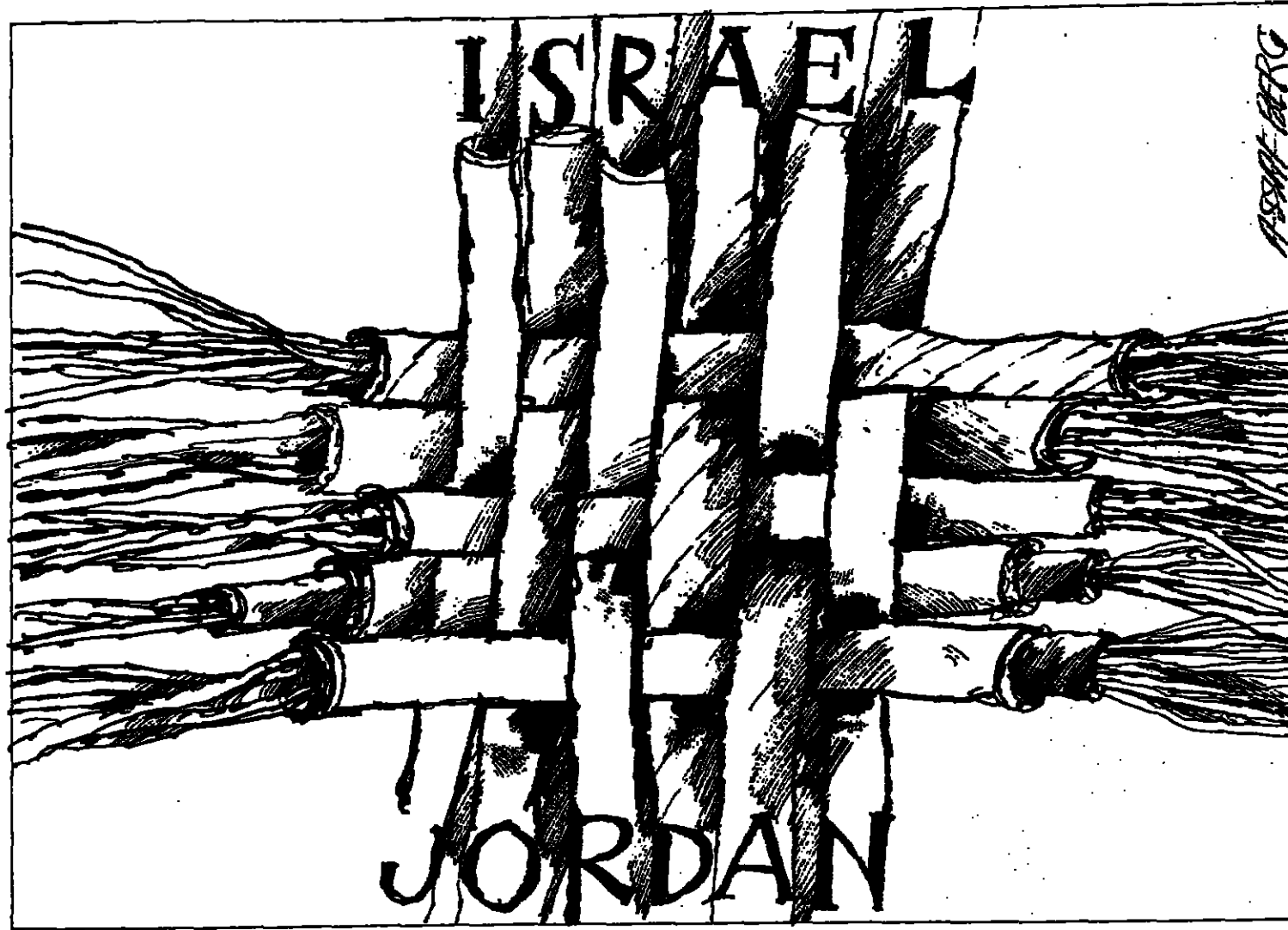
THE gold-plated pen with the royal Hashemite emblem, which King Hussein gave Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin this week, is not the first of its kind. Israeli officials the king has met during the past 31 years received similar pens. But those were not used to sign agreements. All the accords reached during hundreds of hours of talks with the king were verbal understandings. And they were very effective.

On the basis of those unsigned understandings, the Jordanian authorities acted against terrorists. True, at first Jordan cooperated with the PLO, especially in the post-Six Day War Karamah Operation, in which the IDF suffered serious and unexpected casualties. But after a series of military clashes along the border, in which orders of then-chief of staff Haim Bar-Lev to "hit Hussein, so he will crack down on Arafat" were carried out, Israel and Jordan reached an agreement that kept the peace on the long border. Palestinian terrorists were arrested,

and with information provided by Israel, Jordan closed down terrorist headquarters. How ironic it is that this week, after the peace treaty was initiated, the Hamas representative in Amman dared boast publicly of his organization's responsibility for the murderous Tel Aviv bombing and to threaten additional attacks.

Keeping the peace along the border was just one of 39 matters arranged in secret meetings between Israel and Jordan. These matters ranged from waging war on rabies and locusts to dividing the waters of the Yarmukh and Jordan rivers, from bridge crossings to border adjustments. Indeed, on two of the issues at the heart of the negotiations - water and border adjustments - secret arrangements had been concluded in 1964, 1970 and 1975.

While the rulers of Arab states busied themselves with plans to divert the waters of the Jordan away from Israel, King Hussein, on May 2, 1964, reached an agreement with Dr. Yanev Herzog for



dividing the water between the two countries, according to allotments determined 10 years earlier by Eric Johnston, president Eisenhower's special emissary.

THE BORDER adjustments in the Arava, included in the peace treaty, were preceded by two verbal understandings regarding a total of 85 sq. km. On April 8, 1970, Israel handed over to Jordan a large area it had held southeast of the Dead Sea in exchange for a

Jordanian commitment to keep terrorist units, which threatened the potash works in Sodom, from setting up bases there. This was just a few months before Jordan needed Israel's help to deter the Syrian army that had invaded the northern part of the kingdom, intending to join up with the Free Government headed by Arafat established in Irbid. The massing of IDF forces on the Syrian border and the Israeli-American-Jordanian cooperation did indeed deter the Syrians. After the failed coup attempt, the king thanked Israel for its help.

Hussein always acted with caution, but when the Arab states meeting in Casablanca pressed him to deploy their troops in his country, he needed counter-pressure from Israel. Which is why he met Golda in Paris.

The initiative for the dialogue with Israel came from the king, who invited an authorized representative of the prime minister to meet him in London. That was

when he set the rules for the dialogue, which survived two wars in which both countries were involved.

In the very first talk, Hussein sought Israel's help in improving his standing in Washington. "The Americans are helping our enemies," Hussein kept repeating in the ear of the Israeli representative.

And indeed, at the peak of Nasser's rule, the US was increasingly inclined to abandon its traditional allies in favor of the rising tide of Nasserism.

Even the Six Day War did not stop the dialogue between the king and Israel. Three weeks after the end of the war Hussein met an Israeli representative and expressed regret for his involvement in it. In the same meeting he presented no demands, and the king's subdued tone caused some cabinet ministers to propose starting negotiations with him regarding border adjustments vital for security. But the majority in the govern-

ment was seeking ways to talk to the local Palestinians about autonomy, and was in no hurry to respond to Hussein's request, made through the Americans, for talks on a ministerial level.

After a year of hemming and having the government decided to authorize Abba Eban and Yigal Alon to check with Hussein whether there was any chance for territorial compromise with Jordan, with a unified Jerusalem entirely in Israeli hands, Jordan's reply was an absolute no. And Ziad Rifai, Hussein's adviser, explained that any arrangement had to be one that the king could persuade the Arab world to accept.

But Hussein continued the dialogue, which ultimately laid the ground for many arrangements between the two countries. "You oppose the PLO, but your actions help them," he complained in one of the talks. So in 1974 Golda Meir proposed a territorial Jordanian link with the West Bank Arabs. Hussein rejected the propos-

al, saying: "We refuse to crawl through the corridor of Jericho to the West Bank, and there will be no progress without Israeli withdrawal from the Jordan Rift Valley."

The decision of the Rabat summit in October 1974, which deprived Hussein of the right to represent the Palestinians, ended this dispute between Israel and Jordan. And so began a process which ended on July 31, 1988, when Jordan declared its administrative separation from the territories.

The Israeli government preferred that Jordan invest \$3 million in refurbishing the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem, shunning Egyptian pressure to award the task to Saudi Arabia. Jordan was not pleased with Israel's agreement to start talks with the Palestinians in Cairo, following the initiative of Mubarak and Secretary of State James Baker, without Jordan's participation. But Jordan expressed its satisfaction with Israel's position at the Madrid Conference, where it incorporated the Palestinians into the Jordanian delegation.

Hussein was disappointed again when Israel surprised him with the Oslo accord. He realized he could not turn the clock back. In the Sixties he had talked of fully integrating the Palestinians in his kingdom. In the Seventies he raised the idea of a Jordanian-Palestinian federation. In the Eighties he agreed to a confederation. And in the Nineties he was willing to accept a looser connection which would eventually bring the Palestinians to recognize the link between the two banks of the Jordan.

The peace treaty with Israel is supposed to help him achieve this goal. Israel recognized Jordan's special status in the Moslem holy places in Jerusalem. In exchange Jordan agreed that in the final status settlement Israel would have the authority to grant Jordan preferential status, which angered the PLO. And in the appendix to the treaty, which has not yet been made public, Israel commits itself to consulting Jordan on negotiations with the Palestinian Authority on economic matters.

In July 1972 Moshe Dayan proposed a defense treaty to Hussein, on condition that Hussein commit himself to not joining any military alliance against Israel. This condition was not accepted then, but it was accepted in October 1994, without a written Israeli commitment to come to Jordan's aid if it is attacked. Presumably, even in the absence of a written document, Jordan is assured of such a commitment.

## This group takes pride in violence

Hamas's hard-liners have the upper hand in their internal struggle with the group's 'pragmatists,' Jon Immanuel writes

LAST Friday, as Hamas's deadline for an answer to its ransom demands in the kidnapping of Cpl. Nahshon Wachman loomed, thousands of supporters crowded the Palestine Mosque in Gaza City during midday prayers.

Hamas was expected to announce a proposal to defuse the crisis. Instead, its spokesman, Dr. Mahmoud Zahar, extolled Izzadin Kassam, Hamas's military arm, which had carried out the kidnapping.

He also condemned the Nobel Peace Prize - which had just been awarded to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat - as a citation "for those who serve the policies of the West."

"The Israelis will never reach our fighting units," he said.

The mostly young congregation was dressed in ordinary street clothes, rather than the traditional prayer garb of Friday worshippers. They responded with glee, fist-waving and shouts of "Izzadin al-Kassam" to Zahar's expression of xenophobia and militant support for "kateeb [our fighters]."

In the excitement, Zahar conveyed the very strong impression

of being interested in encouraging the congregation's enthusiasm for the kidnapping; he wasn't merely saying what he thought the militant youths wanted to hear.

On Wednesday, during midday prayers in the same mosque, a young man took the microphone and told the world: "We, Izzadin Kassam, the Marj a-Zahour group, take responsibility for the attack in Tel Aviv."

Zahar was nowhere to be found. Nor were dozens of other notables identified with the political wing of Hamas.

One Hamas leader, Sheikh Ahmed Baher, who was reached at home by a Gaza reporter, said he would neither condemn nor approve the attack.

"Resistance against the occupation will continue until the Palestinians get their legitimate rights," he said. Since "the occupation"

continues, the comment seems to indicate that Hamas will excuse any atrocity committed in its name and the name of Islam against Israel.

But not all Islamic activists apparently agree. Sheikh Fathi Amre, a leading Wakf official from Hebron and one of the 400 activists deported to Marj a-Zahour in Lebanon nearly two years ago, told a Palestinian reporter that he condemned the Tel Aviv attack, and called it "completely unacceptable from an Islamic point of view."

Khaled Amayreh, a journalist close to the Islamic movement in Hebron, the second-largest base of Hamas support, after Gaza, warned that the bus bombing "will be detrimental to Hamas and its popularity. I expect some people identified with Hamas will distance themselves from the perpetrators."

He said that the camp of Islamic independents, now about 10 percent of the population, would grow at the expense of Hamas.

But this disagreement remains quiet - and isolated. It appears that the people the bus attack repels will remain politically marginal, unless they can unite to form a political party in opposition to Hamas. This, however, is very unlikely to happen.

HAMAS AS an organization owes its very existence to its violent approach.

In 1980, the Moslem Brotherhood in Gaza was largely a cultural organization, viewed by the Israeli government as a preferred alternative to the nationalistic PLO. But the intifada sparked intense nationalistic fervor among young people, and the Brotherhood risked losing its ability to recruit youths who were attracted instead to the PLO or the Islamic Jihad.

In that spirit, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the paraplegic organizer of the Brotherhood's cultural activities, gave his blessing to the creation of Hamas. He blessed violence against Israel in the name of Islam, and the young people rolled in.

Although ostensibly pan-Islamic, Hamas took the nationalistic route and scored a spectacular success. It maintained its traditional philanthropic and cultural activities, mixed in violence and terror, and became the leading Palestinian opposition group to Arafat's mainstream-

Fatah organization.

Today, Hamas represents a wide range of Islamic aspirations, from a pietistic hope in the spiritual victory of Islam to a militant brand of messianism that demands the immediate creation of an Islamic state in "Palestine." It is almost as though Natorei Karta and Gush Emunim had formed one movement, though Islam is more politically homogeneous than Judaism.

On the social level, Hamas has commanded 40 to 50 percent of the votes in student, professional or chamber-of-commerce elections, indicating that its candidates enjoy great respect for their administrative abilities and moral integrity.

But with regard to its potential role in a national administration, its support in surveys is consistently between 15 and 25 percent. This is still high, but indicates that many members of the same educated classes do not believe it offers a coherent political solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Even those who believe Hamas can play a role on a national level are split. They include those who believe in accommodation with a Jewish state within the 1967 borders - at least until the Arab world becomes truly Islamic - and those who believe in all-out war against Israel to accelerate the victory of Islam in "Palestine."

The hard-liners currently have the upper hand and determine the direction of Hamas, as they have since the intifada began. The group's "pragmatists" have never formulated a coherent political program that could have any influence in peace negotiations with Israel.

The establishment of a Hamas political party, without terrorist links, is entirely academic until Israel agrees to its demand for wide-ranging legislative authority for an elected Palestinian council, which Israel says is not what was agreed to in its accords with the PLO.

Prof. Ziad Abu Amr, a Bir Zeit University political science professor whose specialty is Islamic movements, comments that "Hamas is a wing of the Moslem Brotherhood, but now it seems that the Moslem Brotherhood is a wing of Hamas. People think that Hamas is the Islamic movement as a whole."

Hamas owes this dominant reputation to its militant opposition to compromise with Israel (the central political issue for Islam), and to its links with even more militant sister parties in Jordan and Iran, as well as its branches around the world.

The unwillingness of its best-known spokesmen to condemn a wholesale massacre of innocents, such as that in Tel Aviv, suggests that they enjoy this reputation and have no desire to relegate themselves to a mere political role.



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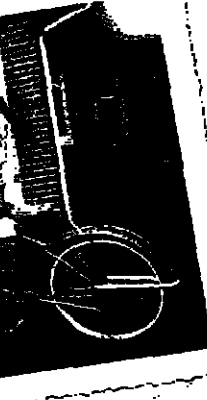
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# Falling in the footsteps of one's father

Last Friday's death of Capt. Nir Poraz, whose father was killed in the Yom Kippur War, has renewed the debate over letting the sons of fallen veterans serve in combat units, Allison Kaplan Sommer writes

It was a painful sight. Capt. Nir Poraz, 23, killed in the failed rescue of kidnapped IDF soldier Nahshon Wachman, was laid to rest last weekend beside the grave of his father, a pilot who fell in the Yom Kippur War 21 years ago. A young man who never knew his father would never grow up to father a child himself, and Poraz's mother faced a traumatic and painful loss for the second time.

Poraz's death renewed the debate over allowing the sons of fallen veterans to serve in combat units. IDF regulations and state law prohibit children or siblings of fallen soldiers from serving in combat units during their compulsory duty, in order to prevent double tragedies.

But that rule has a large loophole. Recruits may join combat units if their parents - in most cases their widowed mothers - sign a waiver. The signature must be notarized.

Nir Poraz had wished to become a pilot like his father, but his mother refused to sign the waiver out of fear for his fate. But she relented when he asked to be allowed to join his second-choice unit, the elite reconnaissance unit of the General Staff (*Sayeret Matkal*), though the unit was involved in dangerous operations. She, like many other mothers, signed the form.

Pinna Cohen, chairwoman of the IDF Widows and Orphans' Organization, says that over the years she has received many calls from mothers wanting to be liberated from having to provide that terrible signature.

She adds: "The army or the state must pass a law that a son from a bereaved family cannot serve in a unit where there is a high risk he could lose his life. Let's put the responsibility where it belongs, with the authorities."

The current system often generates a protracted struggle between mother and child, she says. The mothers are trying not only to protect their



New IDF recruits; Labor MK Avi Yehzekel wants a law forbidding the children of fallen soldiers to serve in combat units. (IDF Spokesman)

sons, but to shield themselves from suffering another loss. The sons want to serve in elite combat units alongside their friends, and often identify with their fallen father and want to serve in his unit. Many, like Poraz, apply unbearable pressure on their mothers to sign.

"Most mothers do sign, but they do it with a shaking hand," Cohen says. "And if, God forbid, something happens to their sons, they feel like they have blood on their hands. The moment the son is gone, they feel responsible and they feel guilty."

Cohen herself was no exception. Her son, who wanted to serve in a tank unit, as his father had, convinced her to sign. But an IDF commander she knew said he would not allow it to happen. He sat down with her son, and, after hours of talking, convinced him not to serve.

"I was lucky there was one commander who knew what his responsibility was," Cohen says.

When Nir Borenstein's son, Ronen, wanted to serve in the artillery, there was no such commander to step in after she agreed to sign her son's form. Borenstein, a Herzliya resident, lost her paratrooper husband Reuven in the Yom Kippur War. Then, Ronen was killed in Lebanon.

Even in retrospect, Borenstein says she knew there was no way she could not sign for Ronen. "My son put a great deal of pressure on me. When you have a good son, it is very hard to resist that pressure. My son had big blue eyes. When he stood there begging me with his eyes, I couldn't stand it."

Early this week, in the wake of Nir Poraz's death, Labor MK Avi Yehzekel proposed legisla-

tion which would forbid the children of fallen soldiers from serving in combat units. The legislation would not, however, forbid an only child from serving in such units. Currently, an only child must also get signed parental permission.

Yehzekel says such a law would shift the responsibility from the parents onto the state.

"In the past, Zionist ideology regarding army service was so strong, and serving in a combat unit was considered so vital, that the feelings of the boy's mother were secondary," Yehzekel says. "But with the changing nature of society, the army and the peace process, I think that the time is right to change this law."

Avinoam Mor-Haim of Jerusalem says the pressure from a son who deeply wants to serve in a combat unit is no easier for two parents to resist than for a widowed mother. One of the Mor-

Haims' two sons was killed in Lebanon about a year ago. Their second son was in the army at the time, already enlisted in a combat unit, and wanted to remain there.

After long discussions, parents and son reached a compromise. Their son remained in his unit, but in an instructional rather than a combat capacity.

After his experience, Mor-Haim says he strongly believes in a law like the one Yehzekel has proposed.

"It has to be to be systematic. The army doesn't allow a young man with health problems to enter combat units like the paratroopers or *Sayeret Matkal*, right? Well, on the same level, they should not allow him to enter a combat unit if he is from a bereaved family."

Both the state and the army have been evading their responsibility in this area, Mor-Haim believes. With the passage of time, he believes, the law will be accepted by parents and soldiers.

"If the son is used to the idea by the time he grows up - just as someone with asthma knows he will never be a pilot - he will know that if his father was killed in a war, he himself cannot be a pilot."

Not all parents agree on this point.

Pinna R., from a moshav in the Sharon, was widowed in 1972. She says her two sons deserved complete freedom to choose the unit they wanted to serve in, without interference from the state or from her.

"I didn't like the signature [required on the waiver]," says Pinna, both of whose sons became paratroopers. "I was upset that I had to sign it before they would be accepted into a combat unit."

She was also required to sign a form for her daughter, who served as a company clerk in a combat unit. She says with pride: "It was clear that, with the education and values I gave them at home, they would go to a unit like that."

Pinna objects strongly to any law that would forbid sons of fallen soldiers from serving in combat units. "You are talking about depriving the army of an important population of soldiers," she says. "We're talking about young men with strong values, soldiers with high motivation. It's not the state's decision. It should be the soldiers'."

Tzahi R. echoes his mother's feelings. "An 18-year-old is old enough to make his own decision," he says. "And if you are an 18-year-old as I was, you want to follow in your father's footsteps."

Tzahi, now 26, says that forbidding someone like that from serving in the paratroopers would be "complete nonsense" and would interfere with his "freedom of choice."

But MK Yehzekel says he has no problem with taking that decision away from a newly recruited soldier, even at the risk of being called undemocratic.

## Media experts: Kidnappers won the television ratings war

THE nation adopted Nahshon Wachman last week. He was everyone's son or brother. The massive television coverage helped foster this feeling by bringing the soldier, his family - and his killers - right into our homes.

It also played into the hands of the terrorists, giving them the coverage they thrive on, some experts claim. In the ratings war, the experts say, the kidnappers emerged the winners.

"I would imagine the terrorists were 90 percent satisfied by the kind of coverage they got," says Dr. Gadi Wolfsfeld, senior lecturer in the Hebrew University's political science department, who is writing a book about television called *The Central Arena*.

There was the unprecedented special edition put out by *Yedioth Aharonot* on Friday, at the height of the event, for example. The pictures of the father and the crying mother gave the terrorists what they wanted.

The kidnapping got all sorts of important people talking about it on television, like US President Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher. It turned into a successful drama with the terrorists as central actors.

According to Wolfsfeld, the TV interview with imprisoned Hamas religious leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, and the terrorists' declarations of their view of Islamic law and justice, represent a change in Hamas's approach.

Hamas has started to give more importance to receiving media attention. In the past, Hamas didn't look for media coverage, but now they actively seek it. Take, for example, the interview with [ITV Channel 1's reporter]

Shlomi Eldar in Gaza where they openly admitted carrying out the earlier attack [in Jerusalem's Nahlat Shiva neighborhood].

Previously, Hamas had not admitted kidnapping soldiers until after the bodies were found. It acted quietly, unlike the PLO, which had always aimed for maximum publicity with such outrages as airplane hijackings and the attack on Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympic Games.

"This time we saw Hamas basically marketing itself. In the first video cassette, in which the masked gunman held Wachman's gun and identity card, he was using the media to market Hamas by stressing the moral aspects of Islam and so on," Wolfsfeld says. "Hamas wants to market itself more, and now ITV is prepared to do it, whereas a few years ago interviews with Palestinians - even people like Faisal Hussein - were banned."

HE ATTRIBUTES the change to two factors: media competition and the political atmosphere.

"The politicians are also marketing themselves more through televised drama. We have witnessed several media events, like the handshakes on the White House lawn, the treaty-signing ceremonies, or even King Hussein's flight over Israel. All these were carefully staged with television in mind," says Wolfsfeld.

"Television has become the central arena, with more money and effort being invested in it. But at the same time, the news media have become just an electronic bulletin board. The stories are too big for the reporters and the competition is too great, so their ability to act independently drops;

The media are playing into the hands of Hamas's new marketing strategy; as evidenced by the Wachman kidnapping drama, Liat Collins reports

They have to report and show all without weighing other considerations."

He cites the example of Ehud Ya'ari's interview with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara for Channel 1.

"Ya'ari was too worried about upsetting Shara and ruining his chances for a later interview with [Syrian President Hafez] Assad to ask the right questions," Wolfsfeld says. "The myth that competition is healthy is broken when it comes to the media."

Nahman Shai, director-general of the Second Television and Radio Authority, also thinks competition has changed the rules.

"Channel 1 used to have exclusive coverage and a captive audience. Now there is competition, and, in order to cope, it must do all sorts of things it would never have done in the past."

"Don't forget, there are some 700,000 viewers hooked up to cable television who can get coverage from CNN, Sky, and a host of other stations at the touch of a button," he says. "And there are local changes too, apart from Channel 2; there will soon be a Palestinian Television which will provide another source of information. The competition has led to generally lower standards. Coverage is more sensationalist; there is greater invasion of privacy; more tears and more blood."

"The Gulf war exposed Chan-

nel 1's lack of exclusivity, but it nonetheless continued to maintain certain restraints. But it's not clear this would happen in the next war, due to the competition."

MOST SACRED cows have already been slaughtered, Shai adds. The IDF itself has initiated features on undercover units, pieces giving previously withheld names and positions are published, and formerly banned pictures are printed. And in the Wachman case, the last of the sacred cows took a bad beating.

"Eighty percent of the censorship rules were broken. Reporters dropped hints about it 'not being a happy day'; a house near Jerusalem'; the head of the IDF Manpower Branch visiting the Wachman family." They did everything but come out and say that Wachman and the officer who led the attempted rescue were dead.

"It was impossible not to give this information considering it was already being broadcast on the foreign networks," Shai says. "Not giving the names of dead soldiers before their parents have been informed is the last sacred cow, and it's an understandable one in our society, but I have repeatedly asked [Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhak] Rabin to review the censorship rules in light of the new media reality."

Part of the reality is the in-

creased quantity of information, says Dr. Dan Caspi, senior lecturer in communications at the Open University.

"This creates the impression that we [the viewers] know more than we do," he says. "But the media are just one side of an incident like this. The media like to be center stage, even if they don't have all the information or the full picture. Backstage, there are the politicians and others who are really involved in what's going on. These are the people with influ-

ence, not the media stars."

Former *Ma'ariv* editor Ido Disenchik is more damning. In an op-ed piece in Sunday's *Ha'aretz*, Disenchik blasts media handling of the affair as "panic in the service of the kidnappers."

"Most of the electronic media in the enlightened world already know: When there is a terrorist attack with hostages - even a kidnapping for ransom - one briefly suspends freedom of expression and the public's right to know. One doesn't play into the terrorists' hands.... The exposure and panic are the most important aims of most terrorist attacks."

He also blames the printed press - specifically *Ma'ariv* and *Yedioth Aharonot* - for trying to copy the electronic media at all costs. "They seem to think that the more blood, drama, gossip

and hysteria, the greater the resonance and therefore the better for them," Disenchik writes.

Caspi, on the other hand, feels the media are an easy public scapegoat. "Journalists are blamed for everything, but it was Hamas, not journalists, who captured and killed Wachman. Had the rescue succeeded, the media would probably have been accused of timing the operation to coincide with the news broadcasts. You can't win."

But the rescue didn't succeed, and until the press was diverted by Wednesday's bus bombing in Tel Aviv, it continued to analyze the kidnapping, the negotiations and the final operation in such detail that President Ezer Weizman said publicly: "The criticism of the IDF's handling of the affair is just part of the ratings war."



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AEKIM



# Syrian Jews here shed their fears at last

Even after arriving here, Syrian Jewish émigrés carefully avoided publicity to protect those still in Damascus and Aleppo, Batsheva Tsur reports

ONE night in April 1992, Yisrael Saruk entered a cramped apartment in Brooklyn. Four men were sitting in a sparsely furnished room: a sofa, a table, a few chairs. Two rooms off the living room were chock-a-block with beds and suitcases. On the walls sat several families. A lot of small children were running around noisily. Then, an old man came into the room where the four men sat in silence. He introduced himself as Rahmun Luz. "Are you the man from Israel?" Luz asked Saruk in archaic Hebrew. "We want to go there," Saruk introduced himself as the Jewish Agency emissary in the area. He asked them to tell him about themselves. Luz said the four men were his sons: Sami, a butcher; Zachi, who was blind and could not work; Subhi, a businessman who recycled bottles with his father; Shlomo who polished glass. The three in the apartment were members of the extended family. "This was the first family I met among newcomers from Syria," Saruk said. "I chose them because they were well established and had more than 100 family members. They had a great deal of influence in the community."

As the conversation progressed, Subhi told Saruk he had been clandestine to Israel. "He told me he had had an operation on his eyes in 1982 at Ichilov hospital, under cover of secrecy. He flew to Israel via Switzerland. "Two days after we met [in April 1992] the phone rang in my house at 4 p.m.," Saruk continued. "Subhi was on the line. He had awoken in the middle of the night and couldn't see. He feared that, like his brother, he was going blind, and wanted to go to Israel immediately on an operation."

Saruk immediately drove to Brooklyn from his Teaneck, New Jersey, home. A few hours later, he had arranged for Subhi to fly with his wife on the first El Al flight to Tel Aviv, he recalls. "When arrived to take them, the whole family had their suitcases ready and were waiting to go." They left on the next flight. Subhi was taken by ambulance from the plane and operated on; today he can see; he family settled in Holon.

THE DEPARTURE of the Luz family, distant relatives of Syria's former chief of state, Hafez Assad, provided impetus to others to inquire about aliyah. "People saw that the Luz family had left," Saruk says. "I would go to synagogue and ask people if I could come into their home for coffee or to join in a *imha*. They were very hospitable and never refused. I used to spend many

hours in the dark of night in the areas where the newly arrived Syrian Jews lived."

He recalls that most people were still very suspicious of strangers, afraid of even mentioning Israel. Families had been broken up and relatives were left behind in Syria. They were fearful that harm would come to them. Their exodus had been made conditional on their not going to Israel.

"Some of those who left had sat in jail," Saruk says. "Some with [executed Israeli spy] Eli Cohen. They adored him, said he was a very special person. One of those was Natan Lati, who was a Damascus shopkeeper. Cohen had been a customer of his. The Syrian secret police, the Mukhabarat, assumed he had been an accomplice. He was severely beaten and sat for a year. Lati was one of the first [of the recent émigrés] to make aliyah and buy an apartment, and is now living happily in Bat Yam."

Having been exposed for so many years to anti-Israel propaganda, community members are still very cautious when it comes to anything Israeli. They were never duped by Syrian propaganda, he says, but being afraid becomes a way of life.

"OUR HEARTS were always at the Western Wall," said Lina Yadshe of Damascus. "It was so near yet always so far."

She was speaking on a sunny day in November 1993 in Holon where a dozen olim from Syria were gathered in the spacious living room of Mary and Asaf Kostika, veteran Aliya Bet activists.

By chance, one of the Luz family was also at the gathering: Moshe Luz, now of Holon, who followed his cousin Rahmun to Israel. Despite some hesitation, they had agreed to meet with this reporter, even though they were still living in a world of shadows.

There was a constant stream of people ringing at the Kostikas' doorbell and the telephone rang nonstop as word got round of the gathering.

The thought that Israel was "so near yet always so far" drove the Jews of Syria almost to distraction, said those gathered there. They could have walked here. Sometimes, people would try to cross the border via Turkey or Lebanon.

"Four of my relatives were killed trying to escape in this way," says Moshe Luz.

Yosef Levy was one of those who, in desperation, tried to get here via Turkey.

"I was 19 years old. I tried fleeing through the mountains, but they caught me. They put me in solitary in a military jail. They gave me electric shock treatment. They pulled out my nails."



For Syrian Jews like Lina Yadshe (left), and Batya and Yosef Levy, Israel was so near yet so far. (Karen Ben-Zion)

Levy says his back was broken by torturers in the jail. He spent the rest of his time in Syria working as a janitor.

Sitting by his side was Batya, his 18-year-old daughter. In a pair of blue jeans, Batya, a hairdresser's apprentice, said she missed New York. She had many friends there and did not have acclimation problems. It had been quite acceptable to walk around in jeans in the Damascus ghetto, too, she explained.

But even though Batya had not pined to come here, Israel offered something special even to her generation. "We have a feeling at the Western Wall that we cannot feel anywhere in the world. Every stone has our history written on it."

"Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara said that the Jews would never leave. They cried out daily: 'We want to go to the Wall,' but he didn't believe them," says Kostika. "Now just look.

The day came and most of the community just picked up and left. They left behind their livelihood, their schools and synagogues, their homes, shops, clinics. They left an organized and ancient community."

THE PEOPLE in the room were a cross-section of the new community that gradually arrived between 1992 and this week, when the veil of secrecy was lifted as Rabbi Hamra made aliyah.

## Path to freedom was along the baksheesh trail

LIFE in the ghetto was OK from the point of view of a livelihood; businessmen especially had it good," says Zacky Blanda, an agronomist.

"But politically," he says, "it was very bad. We needed permission to move, to leave, to buy or sell a house or car, to change a job."

Extremely articulate in English, and with more than a smattering of Hebrew, he was the only Jew in Damascus to hold a government position, working in the Agriculture Ministry.

"We had to apply to the Mukhabarat [secret police] for everything. They lived among us and forced us illegally to pay baksheesh for every demand. This was the case when someone needed medical treatment abroad, for example. And then they had to bring reports from three doctors and could only travel with one family member."

"Many Jews cooperated with the Mukhabarat, especially in business, on the black market. Even those

parties that opposed the government were also against the Jews. Between 1973 and 1982, anyone who had dealings with the Jews was followed and threatened. Life was terribly unstable. The only way to get better treatment was through bribes. This treatment on the part of the Syrians boomeranged; it made us all the more Zionist."

"When we left," says Lina Yadshe, "we were not allowed to sell a thing. I went more than 60 times to the Mukhabarat to arrange our departure. We paid a lot to leave. But it didn't help. They wouldn't let us sell our property and we left everything there."

There were 40,000 Jews in Syria in 1948 and 34,000 left with the establishment of the State of Israel, says David Silvers of the Organization of Syrian and Lebanese Jews. "Jewish heritage and religion were strong and helped the remaining 6,000 to stick together."

"One of the most incredible sights was how every morning boys and girls in the courtyard of the Jewish school listened to the Syrian national anthem wearing

their required paramilitary uniforms," says Michael Schneider, executive vice-president of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. "A few minutes later, they would enter the classrooms, put on their kippot and start studying Talmud and Hebrew."

"This very delicate equilibrium could not have been achieved without the careful and subtle lifeline sent to the community over 45 years by the JDC and the courage and leadership of Rabbi Hamra," Schneider says. The money was first funneled in through individual tourists but after 1979, the Syrians allowed bank transfers, he says.

Despite the fact that almost the entire community lived in the ghetto in Damascus, some 400 Jews moved out to a luxury suburb dubbed Tel Aviv. "These are the people who got rich doing business with the Mukhabarat and these are the people, for the most part, who have remained in Syria now," he says. "They say they see themselves as forming a bridgehead between the two countries in time of peace."

## From Damascus to Jerusalem, with a stop in NY

Rabbi Avraham Hamra's aliyah is seen as a way of prodding the remaining 2,400 Syrian-Jewish émigrés in New York to follow suit, Marilyn Henry writes

Midwood-Flatbush, embraced by the traditional, close-knit Syrian community and assisted by Jewish relief and immigration agencies.

"We have a responsibility as a community to our people, to absorb them," said Rabbi Zvulun Lieberman of Congregation Beth Torah in Brooklyn. "They are

coming with nothing," he said, "and they come with families of six, seven children."

Although the conditions of emigration from Syria specifically directed the Jews away from the Middle East, their arrival in the US did not mean they were bound to remain. Almost 1,300 have made aliyah, the overwhelming majority as families. The news of widespread aliyah became public this week, with the aliyah of Rabbi Avraham Hamra, the spiritual leader of the community.

Israeli officials have repeatedly praised the Syrian-Jewish community and communal organizations in the US for their efforts on behalf of the new arrivals. But, said one Israeli, "perhaps this is overdone. With all the massive assistance, they don't seem to be in a hurry to go to Israel."

Hamra's arrival in Israel was seen as a way of prodding the remaining 2,400 Syrian-Jewish émigrés. "The message this proud leader brings with him is for the remainder of his community in New York to follow him," acting Jewish Agency chairman Yehiel Leket said.

"Freedom for Syrian Jewry was an American deal, an American human-rights effort," said Alice Harari, a leading member of the community, referring to the pact brokered by then president Bush and Assad.

"When it comes to settling, Israel is easier for them in terms of transition," said Harari, president of the Council for the Rescue of Syrian Jews in New York. "It's more compatible — the life-style, the language." "However," she said, "the American Syrian-Jewish community was going to absorb them in our community. This was not a way station en route to Israel."

"The ultimate destinations depend on where they find their families. Israel is another option," she said, noting that there are also Syrian-Jewish communities in Mexico City, Brazil, Argentina and Panama.

"Everyone knew they had a right to travel," said Seymour Reich, chairman of the Task Force on Syrian Jewry of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. "The issue that was discussed within the local Jewish community was the priority of making information about aliyah available." No one wanted to endanger the flow of Jews from Syria, and any moves concerning aliyah were to be low-profile. There was some resistance, but information about aliyah was made available to those who were interested.

An aliyah emissary, laboring quietly in accordance with a code-named plan, sought to assist the Syrians with aliyah. In Brooklyn, where up to 700 are said to be preparing to leave for Israel, absorption is a test for the community and its newest arrivals.

Among those who came from Syria since 1992, there are 800 children of school age. Although

the Brooklyn yeshivot are slashing tuition fees, "there's still an additional [absorption] cost of \$3.5 million, just for religious education," said Lieberman, the rabbi. Meanwhile, the immigrants have concerns — some universal, others specific to the Syrians.

For many, professional opportunities appear to be greater in Israel. "Look at the doctors who came in the last two years. Doctors had a relatively good life in Syria," said an educator in the community. "It's easier to get certified as a doctor in Israel."

"Israel is used to absorbing doctors. The American Medical Association is not good at absorbing doctors," he said, referring to the stringent certification procedures involved for doctors trained outside the US.

The established Syrian community in Brooklyn is primarily from Aleppo.

"The majority of those who arrived in the last two years are from Damascus and they were not as socially connected," said an official at a Brooklyn religious institution. "For them, Israel is just as attractive as the US, or more so. It made sense for them to go to begin with, and if there had been a direct flight, they would have gone," he said. "They came here understanding that they would leave."

Then there is the shock of the differences between the life-style in Syria and that of the long-established Syrian Jews in America, who are mostly the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of immigrants who arrived between 1897 and 1914. "They are Syrian Jews but they are also American Jews," Lieberman said. "We retain our Sephardi, Syrian traditions, but these are not the same as those of the people coming from Damascus."

The new arrivals look at the practices of the established Syrian community, including the interaction between boys and girls, and do not want their children to become adjusted to this manner of life, the rabbi said.

And while Syrian Jews do have family in America, he said, "no one's seen each other in 100 years; these are distant relations."

Their arrival in the US closes two decades of efforts to free the Syrian Jews. It also caps the pipeline set up by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee that, since 1948, channeled some \$10 million to Syria for welfare, education and medical assistance.

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### REGIONAL INTEGRATION

European Experiences and Middle Eastern Perspectives in Politics and Economics  
October 26 - 27, 1994  
Program

Wednesday, October 26,  
Conference room, The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute

9:30 - 10:45  
Integration in Western Europe - Lessons in Community Building  
Karl-Heinz Narjes, Josef Janning  
Discussant: Michael Keren  
Moderator: David Lazar

10:45 - 11:15  
Coffee break

11:15 - 12:30  
Experiences in Regional Integration  
Manfred Mols, Mordechai Abir  
Discussant: Joseph Hadass  
Moderator: Ambassador Albert Mees

16:00 - 17:00  
Regional Integration - Past, Present, and Beyond: Europe and the Middle East  
Curt Gasteyger, Manuel Hassassian  
Discussant: Reuven Hazan  
Moderator: Werner Weidenfeld

17:00 - 17:15  
Coffee break

17:15 - 18:15  
Institution Building and Supranational Decision-Making  
Joseph Rowan, Raymond Cohen  
Discussant: Eyal Inbar  
Moderator: Gerhard Wahlers

18:30 - 19:30  
Regional Integration and Security - Europe as a Partner and Model?  
Günter Burghard  
Moderator: Werner Weidenfeld

\*\*\* Note: Wednesday sessions will be interrupted for television viewing of the Israel-Jordan peace treaty.

Thursday, October 27,  
Conference room, The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute

9:00 - 10:15  
Democracy and Regional Integration  
Wojtek Lamentowicz, Shlomo Avineri  
Discussant: Thomas Henschel  
Moderator: Ruth Lapidot

10:15 - 10:45  
Coffee break

10:45 - 12:00  
Europe as a Partner for Integration and Cooperation in the Middle East  
Jimmy Weinblatt, Jürgen Turek  
Discussant: Ephraim F. Haran  
Moderator: Ruth Lapidot

12:00 - 12:15  
Coffee break

12:15 - 13:30  
The Middle East - A Case for Transatlantic Partnership  
Kenneth Stein  
Discussant: Arie Kacowicz  
Moderator: David Lazar

13:30 - 14:00  
Concluding remarks: Werner Weidenfeld

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# Let's not forget with whom we're making peace

CAPITAL TALK

TEDDY KOLLEK with Amos Kollek

LIKE everyone else I was happy to watch on television the initial ceremony at King Hussein's palace near Amman this week. One peace treaty that isn't controversial. And therefore, maybe as a sad commentary on our times, almost a bit boring.

These days we are flooded with peace activities. How quickly we seem to forget how for decades we yearned for such days. Now the process is routine.

Many people speak for it, many speak against it. Can we trust the Arabs? I don't think this is really the main issue.

I'm all for peace, even when the price we have to pay is quite dear. But we must continue the process with open eyes. We cannot forget or ignore the deep hostility that exists among the Arabs toward us.

It goes much deeper than we think. It may sound absurd, but in truth the Arabs have not yet given up on someday ruling Spain again.

They will continue for generations, no matter how well we behave toward them, to see in us a people who have conquered their holy soils, the "lands of Islam."

For them, any territory that had ever been under their rule is theirs forever, even if before and after it belonged to someone else. They believe that about Israel, even though the Jews were here before them.

There has been very little confiscation by Jews of Arab land; Jews legally bought vacant, deserted lands. But although Jews have used the mildest methods of obtaining back parts of their land,

this doesn't interest the Arab extremists. They had once been here and that's all they care about.

So even when we have made peace with our neighbors, we must know that it will be peace with risk — for a fairly long time.

The crunch will not be in the next few months or years, but the generations to come. We will be challenged and threatened and our determination will be tested.

We don't have to be deterred by that. We do not have to be afraid of the extremists among the Arabs or among ourselves. We are strong enough, we know how to protect ourselves.

We don't have to be so sensitive to all their statements and claims and those made by our own "new historians," who say that we have taken something to which we have no right.

We know that in the Twenties and Thirties there were only a few dozen Arabs in Palestine. The others came later, to a large extent because the Jews created economic opportunities for them.

We should never lose sight of the fact that what we are doing is right. We must keep our courage and high moral standards and push forward.

Single incidents of kidnappings and murders will probably go on for quite some time. As saddening as they are, they do not change the broad picture and must not break our resolve or unity.

I believe that in the end, moderation and sanity will have the upper hand.

# Textbook is propaganda at its best

EYE ON THE MEDIA

GUEST COLUMNIST JOHN C. LANDAU

ONE of the most widely used textbooks on the Middle East in American colleges is *Politics in the Middle East*, by James Bill of William and Mary College and Robert Springborg of Macquarie University in Australia (Scott, Foresman/Little, Brown).

The publication of its fourth edition only four years after the third suggests an unusually heavy demand. But to call this opus a textbook is to be charitable. Its description of Israel adheres closely to that found in the most blatant type of PLO propaganda.

In a 68-page chapter called "The Arab-Israeli Connection," the authors review the encounter between Jews and Arabs from Herzl's time to the present. They portray Zionism as a typical manifestation of European colonialism and racism: "The Zionist enterprise was part of the broader pattern of European colonialization, requiring for its success cooperation with the imperial powers and subordination of the indigenous population...."

"The Zionist slogan, 'A land without a people for a people without a land,' reflects the phenomenon of discounting to the point of nonexistence civilizations other than those of Europe or of European origins."

(A reference to this supposed Zionist slogan occurs in every anti-Zionist tract. But neither Bill and Springborg nor anyone else has provided documentation that it was ever used by Zionists.)

The presence of Jews in "Palestine" in ancient times, prior to Arab settlement of the country, is mentioned only once: immediately afterwards, we are assured that contemporary Palestinian Arabs "have much more of the ancient Hebrews' blood" than do present-day Jews.

Having arrived in Palestine to colonize the natives, the Zionist settlers then took advantage of the UN partition resolution of 1947 to launch a war of conquest, designed to expand the Jewish frontiers beyond those approved by the UN and drive the Arab natives from the country: "Partition was a golden opportunity to establish a Jewish state in almost all of Palestine, while at the same time opening the door for the expulsion of the Arabs."

In Bill and Springborg's account, the

War of Independence consisted entirely of military operations, massacres of innocent civilians and propaganda broadcasts by the "Zionists," directed solely against nonresisting Arabs. The involvement of the five Arab League armies in the war is dismissed airily in one sentence: "In a matter of weeks, the Israeli army had absorbed the initial advance by the armies of the Arab states and thrown them back, accumulating more territory in the process."

The only hint that Arabs may have played a more active role in the war is equally dismissive and misleading: "Three and a half months after fighting commenced... Ben-Gurion assessed the opposition as follows: 'They, the decisive majority of them, do not want to fight us, and all of them together are unable to stand up against us...'"

That this "fighting" and "initial advance" left 6,000 Jews dead, 2,000 of them civilians, denied over 100,000 Jews food and water for months, closed all major roads to Jews, and included major attacks on every Jewish village, town and urban neighborhood in Israel, goes unmentioned. So does the fact that the peace-loving Arabs started the war.

Even more cursory and one-sided are the treatments of Israel's other wars: "In 1956, Egypt defended itself against the Israeli, British and French tripartite invasion. Egyptian-Syrian rivalry and attempts by each to outbid the other's radicalism, although neither had the intention of waging war, paved the way for the Israeli attack of June 1967. The War of Attrition along the Suez Canal in 1969-70 was an attempt by Nasser to prevent Israel's occupation of Sinai from becoming a fait accompli. The October 1973 War was initiated by Egypt and Syria for the limited purpose of altering the context for diplomacy aimed at regaining the Sinai and Golan Heights and possibly the West Bank and Gaza."

That thousands of Israelis perished while the diplomatic context was being altered is not even hinted at. As for the invasion of Lebanon by Israel in the

summer of 1982, it was nothing more than a clumsy attempt at "destroying the organizational infrastructure that gives political meaning to Palestinian nationalism."

Palestinian terrorism? Late in the chapter, the authors belatedly admit that it occurred in the past, although they describe it as essentially an innocent cultural activity: "The process of restoring Palestinian identity took several forms, from writing nationalist poetry to adopting terrorist tactics on a global scale...." But they suggest that terrorism ceased "in the 20 years after 1968, as Palestinian identity reformed and... the maximalist position of armed struggle for the liberation of all Palestine gave way to the more realistic position of negotiating with Israel...."

Well, perhaps it hasn't completely ceased: "the radical acts and statements of the 1960s and early 1970s, which were integral features of the nationalist movement in its early phase, have not been entirely, unambiguously, and formally rejected by all elements of the Palestinian national movement... some minor groups still adhere to those positions...."

IF ARAB violence against Israelis receives short shrift in *Politics in the Middle East*, the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza receives many pages of intensive coverage. As Bill and Springborg tell it, Israeli rule has been a continuous and unrelieved reign of terror: "demolition of houses, wanton disregard for civil rights, imprisonment without trial, torture, deportation, and political killings [at the hands of Israeli soldiers and settlers]... are commonplace in the territories."

In addition to terrorizing the natives, the Israelis have "systematically siphoned off [the economic resources] of the occupied territories into Israel.... given this outward flow of resources, it is not surprising that Palestinian agriculture and industry have stagnated." That the Palestinian standard of living has risen during the "occupation" from Third World levels to something approaching that of Western Europe and

the US today, of course, goes unremarked.

Peace negotiations? According to our authors, "before, during and after the first Arab-Israeli war, leaders of the Arab states made numerous peace overtures that were rebuffed by an Israeli leadership." As an example, the authors cite King Abdullah of Jordan, who "continued to receive Israeli emissaries and make proposals for reducing the level of conflict right up until his assassination in February 1951." Concealed is the fact that Israel had reached agreement with Abdullah before his murder, and that the assassination was the work of Palestinians opposed to peace.

There is no space in a newspaper column to list, much less refute, the hundreds of additional distortions and inaccuracies in the book. But a few words of the documentary sources cited in the footnotes and text are in order. Bill and Springborg pay tribute to "Israeli revisionist and other scholars" who have undertaken to "revise accepted wisdom," "restore balance in the struggle over the 'truth' of the conflict," and discredit the "myths" that have "served to legitimate Israel's claim to statehood." Among the Israeli revisionists cited as authorities are Simha Flapan, Avi Shlaim, Shabtai Tevet, Benny Morris, Tom Segev, Meron Benvenisti and Matzpen leader Arie Bober. Flapan, "an Israeli intellectual and political activist," is singled out for special praise and quoted extensively.

Besides these Israelis, the authors rely for their information on such veteran anti-Israel scholar-propagandists as Maxime Rodinson, Rashid Khalidi, Ibrahim and Janet Abu-Lughod and Yasser Arafat's longtime speechwriter Edward Said. An article by the rabidly anti-Israel journalist and politician Erskine Childers, whose "research" serves a column in itself, is said to "prove beyond doubt" Arab accusation against Israel.

On the other hand, independent scholar Joan Peters, whose book *From Time Immemorial* refuses to toe the Arab propaganda line about Palestinian Arab origins, is subjected to a vicious personal attack.

With textbooks like these, the PLC and Hamas can save money by suspending the issuing of pamphlets.

# Of peace and redemption

VIEW FROM NOV

MOSHE KOHN

THE notions that people murdered by Arab terrorists are "victims of the peace" and "the price of peace" and that the aim of those Arab murderers is to "kill the peace" are among the semantic distortions that our present government leaders have cultivated and which have been taken up by mediocrities and ordinary people everywhere.

This terminology has been used again in connection with the murders of Ma'ayan Levy, Samir Mugrabi and Nahshon Wachman.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told a foreign news network Sunday morning, in connection with the tragic Wachman disaster and several previous similar kidnappings/murders of soldiers, that "Hamas not only tried to kidnap the soldiers, they also tried to kidnap the peace."

A CNN news reader that same morning described Wachman as "another victim along the hazardous road to peace."

A local writer calculated that "the price of peace takes its toll with each passing day."

And Prime Minister Rabin has vowed in various formulations that we will not let Arab terror halt the peace process.

Such pronouncements are good one-liners and sound bytes. But they are not true.

Levy, Mugrabi (a Jerusalem Arab) and Wachman — and Nit Foraz, who led the futile attempt to free Wachman, and all the Jews, Arabs and others killed by terrorists attacking Israeli and pro-Israeli targets anywhere — are victims of attempts to destroy the State of Israel and drive the Jews out of Eretz Yisrael.

The main "victims of the peace" are truth and Jewish self-respect.

Speaking of that, Rabin and Peres should announce, in the name of truth and self-respect, that they are refusing the Nobel Peace Prize, on two grounds. The first is that they are to share it with that man whose sole success over the years has been in orchestrating the murder of Jews, over which he has expressed no remorse, but who is impotent as to implementing his part of "the peace."

Secondly, there is no peace here yet to celebrate with Nobel prizes or other festivities.

Rabbi Mordechai Elon, principal of the Horev Yeshiva that Wachman had attended, delivered a eulogy at Wachman's funeral. Elon called on the slain youth's spirit to beseech Heaven to "stop putting us here to so many severe tests."

This is in the spirit of the ques-

tion many ask: "Where was God during the Holocaust?"

The late rabbi Prof. Eliezer Berkovits offered a most cogent retort to that and similar questions: "Where was Man during the Holocaust?"

Let's stop pointing accusing fingers at Heaven for disasters that are fruits of our own folly.

The circumstances that led to Wachman's kidnapping and murder and to many other of the human tragedies and political and military failures we have suffered were the result of our folly, not of Heaven's desire to test us.

The Rabin team should now put its policies to a public test by calling a national election at the earliest opportunity.

IT IS DANGEROUS for a Jew to speak favorably of "Redemption" in the political and spiritual senses (*geula* in Hebrew). You are liable to be branded a messianist fanatic, a "settler," an "enemy of peace."

"You may speak of the 'pidyon' brand of redemption: *pidyon shvuyim*/ransoming Jews from kidnappers, and *Pidyon Haben*/Redemption of the Firstborn, in which the father of a son who is the mother's first natural-born child redeems the boy from the *kohen* when he is 30 days old."

"Zionism of Redemption" goes beyond Theodor Herzl's desire to establish a "safe haven" for Jews fleeing persecution in the *galut*.

The idea is rooted in the "End of Days" promises conveyed by the biblical Prophets and hopes spun by the Talmudic Sages. It expresses the Jewish people's reawakening and aspiration to redeem itself from the various forms of physical and spiritual thralldom that almost universally was, and to a great extent still is, our people's lot in *galut* (exile) and even here at home. Indeed, the sage Shmuel said that the Messianic Era will differ from the This-World of the Destruction and Exile in that the Jewish people will again be sovereign in its own land, Eretz Yisrael (*Berachot 34b* etc.).

Redemptionist Zionists, for example, describe Israel as "the flowering of our Redemption," as stated in the Prayer for the Welfare of the State, which is said in national-religious synagogues during Shabbat and festival services.

Redemptionist Zionism is lately personified by myriads of nation-

al-religious, Orthodox Jews who since the Six Day War have rejected the Now-ist and Do-Your-Own-Thing ethos and instead have made it their mission to settle the liberated sections of Eretz Yisrael. And Orthodox Jews, especially those who do not engage in political shenanigans but devote themselves to practicing what they preach, are easy subjects for caricature and objects of derision.

As a result, "post-Zionist" Now-ists like Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni rail against the "Messianic fervor on the part of religious, chauvinistic, gun-toting Jews under IDF protection," whom she accuses of "ousting those who have inhabited this land for generations" (*The Jerusalem Post*, October 14).

There indeed are a small number of such Jews. But I have no doubt that Aloni would also have derided Berl Katznelson, the Second Aliya nestor of the Zionist Labor Movement and an avowed secularist (who had had a rich Jewish education), as a Messianist-drum, rabid hawk.

In 1933, Katznelson chided the Zionist Movement and the Yishuv in general for their failure to respond appropriately to the plight of German Jewry following the Nazis' recent rise to power. He said: "No greater catastrophe could befall Zionism than for it to forsake the great Redemption undertaking... We must receive the aliyah from Germany gladly, compassionately, patiently. This applies to every single *oleh* and to the *olim* from every country."

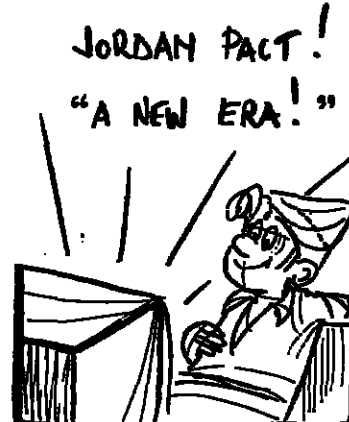
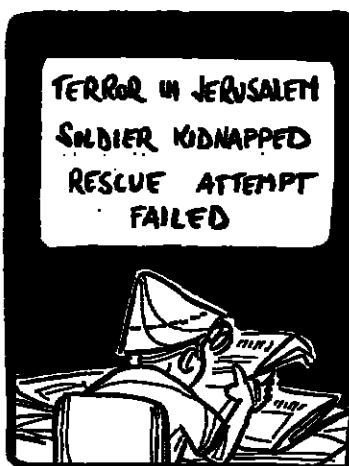
Israel's third president, Zalman Shazar, was a disciple/colleague of Katznelson. Like Katznelson he was not a religiousist, had a rich Jewish education, and was a Redemptionist Zionist. In his inaugural address in 1963 he said:

"Our state is a Redemptionist state... bound up with the visions of and yearnings for Redemption of all the generations of Jews...."

One of Shazar's important achievements was initiating, together with Prof. Moshe Davis of Jerusalem, the President's Circle for the Study of Contemporary Jewry. In that circle, which met at Beit Hanassi from Shazar's term through that of Chaim Herzog, leading Jewish (and non-Jewish) intellectuals met regularly in monthly study sessions and annual international seminars and dialogues on topics of vital concern to the Jewish future.

The 20th anniversary of Shazar's death will be marked next Sunday through Tuesday by a conference on "Between Redemption and Heresy," at Jerusalem's Van Leer Institute.

## SRULIK



## The 'Akeda': A lesson in martyrdom

SHABBAT SHALOM

SHLOMO RISKIN

"And He said: 'Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will designate to you.'"

(Gen. 22:2)

OF all the perplexities in the Torah, Abraham's binding of Isaac has engaged more thinkers and artists than any other.

God promises Abraham that he will father a great nation, but after devoting their entire lives to spreading the idea of one God, Abraham and Sarah are still without child. Then, when Sarah miraculously gives birth to a son at the age of 90, the whole world can finally see the absolute truth of the word of the One God of Abraham!

But the joy of the parents seems to come to a premature end when, as we read in this week's portion of *Vayera*, the Almighty commands Abraham to lift his beloved son Isaac to the altar as a burnt offering. Did Abraham struggle so long only to carry his son's ashes down Mt. Moriah?

How could God require the death of the very child by which the plan of carrying the name of God into the world was to be put into effect?

If this was the only problem generated by the *Akeda* it would be enough to make the matter imponderable. Beyond all questions, however, one must note that no biblical story has had greater influence on the history of the Jewish nation.

Ironically, the very mystery of God's command may shed light on one of the major enigmas of Jewish history: where does a people

promised greatness, wealth and innumerable progeny find the courage and faith to endure the suffering and martyrdom mercilessly inflicted upon them by virtually every Christian or Islamic society with whom they have come into contact?

Unless the Jew bowed before his host/masters, kissed the cross, accepted the founder of Christianity, shouted Allah's praise, declared the Koran divine, death was inevitable.

Not only did many choose martyrdom, but rather than allow their children to be tortured and baptized, fathers and mothers brought knives against the necks of their own children.

In the city of Worms, in 1096, 800 people were killed in two days at the end of the month of Iyar. Prof. Shalom Spiegel, in his study *The Last Trial*, notes a chronicle of that period which quotes one of the community's leaders, Rabbi Meshulam bar Isaac: "All you, great and small, hearken unto me. Here is my son that God gave me and to whom my wife Tzipora gave birth in her old age. Isaac is this child's name. And now I shall offer him up as father Abraham offered up his son Isaac."

The chronicle concludes with the father himself slaying the boy, then walking with his wife to the murderous Christians outside.

Clearly, the story of the binding of Isaac imprinted its message on all future generations. From the talmudic invocation of the ram's horn on the Day of Judgment ("in order that I may remember for

your benefit the binding of Isaac the son of Abraham, and I shall account it for you as if you yourselves bound yourselves up before Me." B.T. *Rosh Hashana* 16a), Jews rose to the challenge of martyrdom on the basis of a startling deletion from the account of the *Akeda* itself.

Upon approaching the place appointed for the sacrifice, Abraham tells the young men accompanying him to wait, and "I and the boy will go yonder; and we will worship and we will come back to you." (Gen. 22:5)

But when the test is over, the text tells us "Abraham returned to his young men," strangely neglecting to mention Isaac.

The *Midrash Hagadol* cites R. Eleazar ben Pedat: "Although Isaac did not die, scripture regards him as though he had died and his ashes lay piled on the altar." (Margulies edition, p.360)

Perhaps one might argue that Isaac was so traumatized by the *Akeda* that a specific aspect of him did die. After all, he became the most ethereal and passive of the Patriarchs, called by the Midrash *ola umina*, the whole burnt offering.

But the Jews of the Middle Ages read more than metaphor in Abraham's solitary return. In his commentary Ibn Ezra writes: "Isaac is not mentioned, but he who asserts that Abraham slew Isaac and abandoned him, and that afterwards Isaac came to life, is speaking contrary to the biblical text." (Ibn Ezra, Gen. 22:19)

Ibn Ezra's reference to the res-

urrection of Isaac cannot be understood outside the context of an age in which countless Jews were called upon to sacrifice their children.

Apparently in Ibn Ezra's day (1089-1164) modern-day Abrahams abounded, and although it was clear that had it not been for the reprieving words of the angel ("Do not cast your hand against the lad"), Isaac would have become ashes. It was important for many to believe Abraham actually did sacrifice his son. But whatever the interpretation, the *Akeda* became the eternal symbol of all Jews who gave up their lives and the lives of their children for God.

We have just experienced the tragic murder of Nahshon Wachman, and undoubtedly his parent Yehuda and Esther have passed — and even surpassed — the trial of Abraham. If not for such courageous individuals, where would the State of Israel lie?

Haven't we survived as a people only because of fathers and mothers tragically willing to sacrifice their children if necessary, just as Abraham was willing to sacrifice Isaac? Indeed, this necessity of sacrifice may explain why God commands Abraham to sacrifice the very child who is the future of this great nation.

The paradox in Jewish history is that, had we not been willing to sacrifice our children for God, we would never have survived as a God-inspired and God-committed nation with a unique message.

Hence Mount Moriah, the place of sacrifice, is the Temple Mount of Jerusalem, the place from whence God will be revealed to humanity, the place of Jewish eternity.

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# Selling to a forgotten sector: Israeli-Arab consumers

An Arab-owned ad agency in Tel Aviv is ready to pitch Israeli companies to the Arab world — here and abroad.  
Rachel Neiman reports

THINGS are buzzing at Jaffa Communications. The Israeli-Arab owned ad agency is about to inaugurate its Middle East division and new offices.

Only three of the many advertising agencies here cater to the Arab sector. Jaffa Communications is the only one which operates independently, says rector Makram Khoury Machool. This distinguishes it from Al-Busteni, the Arab sector division of Arieli agency, or I-Sinara, which has newspaper sponsorship. As Israeli companies begin feeling out the regional markets, Khoury Machool says, Jaffa Communications is a unique position to market Israel to the Arab world.

Seated among the boxes and office furniture, Khoury Machool speaks of an untapped potential within the Arab sector. This is due largely, he says, to lack of awareness of market size by advertisers, and poor judgment on the part of agencies, who do not target campaigns correctly.

"In some markets there is much great buying potential among the Arab sector than that estimated for the general Israeli population," says Khoury Machool.

He points to a campaign he created for Kupat Holim Clalit, who wanted a campaign geared specifically to the young.

"We found that most of the Arab population in Israel is young [between 18 and 25]," he says. Jaffa Communications estimated the potential clientele at Kupat Holim Clalit at 60,000.

"We were conservative," says Khoury Machool. Their comprehensive campaign, which included TV, radio, bill posters and print media, brought 6,000 new members from the Arab sector into Kupat Holim Clalit. "That's what a tailor-made campaign can do."

Jaffa Communications created two posters for the Kupat Holim Clalit campaign, one geared at young women, the other at young men. In the first, a beauty-contest winner who is a college stu-

dent appeals to students to look out for their health "because it's the right thing to do." In the parallel campaign, a soccer player asks fans to consider the consequences of possible injury.

The posters are not much to look at, acknowledges Khoury Machool. Advertising in the Arabic-speaking sector relies heavily on text. But in the case of the beauty queen, the photo conveys a message of egalitarianism and of education for women. "A pretty girl can convince boys, too," he adds with a smile.

Khoury Machool, 31, has spent the last 12 years of his life in communications. After graduating from Tel Aviv University's school of communications, he worked as a radio reporter in Arabic, served as consultant and researcher for Educational Television, and wrote for the Tel Aviv weekly *Ha'ir*. Khoury Machool then opened the Tel Aviv bureau of the Haifa-based daily paper, *Al-Ithad*, running its editorial and advertising departments and winning a Reuters award for journalism. He went to Oxford in 1990 as a Post-Master Research Fellow in Communications and Middle East studies.

The Gulf war convinced him that a Middle East peace was "only a matter of time, and what would move it was economics and communications."

The contacts Khoury Machool made at Oxford — they include alumnus Prince Hassan of Jordan — form the basis of what he calls his "network for Israeli businesses to reach the Arab world, and for Arab entrepreneurs to reach Israel."

In late 1991 he founded Jaffa Communications, which, in addition to advertising, also provides services such as research, surveys, marketing and business consulting. Jaffa Communications numbers among its clients Tel Aviv municipal candidates, the communications division of the Histadrut, the information division of the Israel Electric Corporation, Philip Morris cigarettes, a construction company and a preparatory institute for psychometric tests.



Makram Khoury Machool can beam out a campaign to 140 million people overlooked by other agencies. (R. Israeli)

"Our secret — well, it's an open secret, — is that we are Arabs in Israel and know both markets," he says.

This means knowing how to get the right message across in the best way. Any English speaker who has been treated to misspelled, poorly translated Hebrew ad campaigns can appreciate Khoury Machool's ironclad rule: "We do not translate campaigns. If we did, the campaign would lose all content."

He continues: "Many advertisers are unaware of the local Arab sector: one million people who need consumer goods, food, women's items, children's items and services."

"Part of the advertising done in Hebrew is supposed to appeal to the Arab sector and does not."

Khoury Machool gives two examples of translated slogans which have either a

negative effect or no impact on the Arab sector because they do not appeal to the sensitivities of the target population.

One is the environmental awareness slogan, "A beautiful nation — One nation." The second, "Israel says Shalom to the Tourist," particularly rankles him.

"This doesn't work," says Khoury Machool as he looks over the literally translated newspaper ad. "The official institutions have not yet realized they must appeal to their entire public."

He is also annoyed that the tender offer was made only in Hebrew, and his firm was not able to bid for it.

The most effective means of communication in the Arab sector is radio, then wall posters. There are no posters affixed to bus stops in Arab areas.

Unlike the Jewish sector, where marketing directly to the home is perceived

as an annoyance, the direct sales approach is extremely effective among Arabs.

"People like to have visitors come to the home. It is considered impressive, an honor. The response is fantastic."

Another difference is the ranking of TV advertising and the print media, which find themselves at the bottom of the list.

Fifteen percent of the Israeli Arab population read the Hebrew press, but, explains Khoury Machool, they do so in order to get information, and are not open to advertisers' messages. For advertisers to deliver their message to the Arab sector, he says, "they must rely on alternative sources."

Language presents an interesting challenge. Although literary Arabic is a unified language, spoken Arabic has many

regional dialects and slang terms. The Kupat Holim campaign combined one literary word meaning "actually" with two slang ones meaning "why should we?" This mix, says Khoury Machool, "conveys the communicative atmosphere of the street. We are changing the language so the grasping process will be easy," he says. "We are trying to make a synthesis of classical, modern literary and dialect languages."

But Khoury Machool's agenda is more far-reaching. Israeli Arabs have gone through a speeded-up modernization process, he says. Income levels have increased, consumption patterns have changed, and the level of education has risen. "Something is shaking the old foundations and creating an integrated culture. Most changes are consumer related — on the surface. We are trying to introduce a mode of behavior without people realizing it."

Aware of his target audience, he explains his approach. "We do this delicately. We use gentle humor, without making fun. You need to give respect. Arabs don't like it if they feel they are not getting respect."

Khoury Machool sees his company's field of activity as three concentric circles. The innermost being the Israeli-Arab population and the autonomy, the second being neighboring Arab countries. The third and most potentially lucrative market is one the new Middle East division will handle. In this area, Khoury Machool is not sure who his competition is, or indeed if he has any. The Jordanian and Saudi ad agencies are not his competitors, he explains, because "none operate as trans-Middle Eastern agencies."

Khoury Machool says contact has been made with Kuwait, Dubai, Qatar, Egypt, Morocco and Algeria. "Last week I was on a radio show where I took calls from businesses all over the Arab world."

Thus far, 15 Israeli companies and a similar number of foreign companies have approached Jaffa Communications.

Would the firm take on a campaign targeting the Jewish sector?

Khoury Machool says this falls out of his area of expertise. "I have identified where I sit and I intend to take advantage of it. I have the local Arab sector, the regional market and the entire Arab world. One hundred and forty million is enough."

## Wall Street in 1995 — possibilities, pitfalls for fortune seekers

What are the coming year's best investments? Tom Petrino looks at five scenarios, examining factors affecting the US economy

WANTED: A winning investment formula for 1995.

The near-term is looking like a tale of two Wall Streets, who figure the markets may remain in a mode of backing and filling, while waiting for the next Federal Reserve Board interest rate hike, probably in November.

The more important issue is what happens after that. As some JS investors look ahead to 1995, they are increasingly intrigued with the possibilities and potential pitfalls for stocks, bonds and short-term cash accounts.

With long-term bond yields already at 28-month highs, what if the Fed actually succeeds in engineering a "soft landing" for the economy? Could bond yields tumble and stocks rocket?

What if economic growth remains strong in '95 and inflation zooms? Would the markets find that a deadly combo?

And what if, despite all of the current evidence to the contrary, the surprise in '95 is that the economy sinks into recession?

Financial markets would probably play out very differently under each of these scenarios. Here's a

look at five possible scripts for the economy in '95, and how investors might structure their portfolios accordingly:

• **A soft landing.** This is the most optimistic bet on Wall Street today. It assumes that the Federal Reserve will raise short-term interest rates two more times at most, that real annualized economic growth will moderate from the current 4% range to more like 2.5% next year, and that long-term bond yields will level off at their current levels, or fall back.

Executives of some of America's biggest companies, meeting earlier this month under the auspices of the Business Council, indicated their faith in a soft landing by projecting 2.6 percent economic growth in 1995.

They also expect the federal funds rate, a key short-term interest rate, to rise from 4.75% now to 5.5% in 1995. But long-term rates should hold steady, the council says.

If they're right, bonds are a great buy today. Wall Streeters note, with 30-year Treasury bonds yielding just under 8% currently, and many corporate bonds yielding nearly 9%, the after-inflation return on long-term bonds is 5 to 6 percent if inflation stays around 3%.

"There haven't been a lot of times in US history when you've been able to earn 5% real returns," says Jack Kallis, manager of the Met Life/State Street Government Securities bond fund in Boston.

John R. Williams, economist at Bankers Trust in New York, is even more optimistic: He thinks slower growth and modest inflation will allow 30-year T-bond yields to fall to 7.25% next year, which would give bond owners a capital gain on top of their interest earnings.

For the stock market, meanwhile, a soft landing would probably be the best possible economic scenario. Corporate earnings would continue to advance, while

investors would no longer face the threat of ever-rising interest rates. The bull market could conceivably resume in earnest.

• **Strong growth/low inflation.** This is what we've enjoyed so far this year, and the only real winners have been investors who have "disinvested" — that is, people who have stashed cash in money market funds or other short-term accounts, reaping the rewards of rising short-term interest rates.

If economic growth stays strong in 1995, it's a sure bet that the Fed will continue to push short-term interest rates up sharply.

Money market fund yields, now around 4.3% on average, could approach 6% by late 1995 if the Fed raises rates another 1.5 to 2 points.

So keeping a good chunk of your assets in short-term accounts would be a winning game plan in '95, if you think the US economy isn't going to slow soon.

But if inflation remains moderate, even though growth is strong, most long-term interest rates continue rising as well? Some Wall Streeters don't think so. They see a "flat yield curve" on the horizon: That is, short rates go higher, but long rates stay flat or decline.

The trick then would be to ride short rates up, then lock in long-term yields when it appears that rates overall have peaked. But that kind of timing is no easy feat.

Art Steinmetz, manager of the Oppenheimer Strategic Income bond fund in New York, argues that investors who expect the Fed to keep pushing up short rates in 1995 should be in no hurry to grab long-term bonds. He doubts that long rates will decline while short rates are rising, even if inflation remains tame.

Historically, "long-term bonds cannot rally until the Fed has done tightening," Steinmetz says.

As for US stocks, strong growth and much higher short rates in 1995 might mean a repeat of '94. Some stocks would be driven by

rising corporate earnings, but overall the market would be fighting a vicious head wind. Note, however, that many foreign markets might not face the same rate pressures, and could thrive.

• **Strong growth/higher inflation.** It's probably fair to say that most investors don't believe inflation can surge dramatically in the '90s, because so much is working against higher prices: mainly, the forces of global competition and gains in productivity.

But what if those forces are overestimated? And how much is too much inflation, anyway?

Many economists expect only a moderate increase in inflation in 1995. The Business Council concurs, estimating that consumer prices in the US will rise 3.3% next year, as opposed to an expected 2.7% this year.

The question is whether investors have become so paranoid about inflation that even a 3.3% rate — or at least, the first signs of that kind of rate — might cause much more dislocation in markets.

Michael Ivanovitch, economist at MSI Global in New York, sees "12 months of strong growth and accelerating inflation" ahead, and says continuing bear markets in stocks and bonds go hand-in-hand with that forecast.

At Prudential Securities, economist Richard Rippe also worries about the propensity for inflation to surprise people. He now projects that US consumer prices will be rising at a 3.5% to 4% annual rate by late-1995, as the global economy expands, commodity prices climb and labor markets tighten.

"The risks in the inflation outlook [are] more on the upside than the downside," Rippe warns, especially if labor costs begin to rise as companies compete more aggressively to attract workers. This month the government said the nation's unemployment rate fell to a four-year low of 5.9% in September, but that wage in-

creases remain very low.

If you expect inflation surprises in 1995, you would probably want to steer clear of bonds now, even though the inflation "premium" in yields is arguably already high. Likewise, though some companies would undoubtedly benefit from higher prices — commodity producers, for example — stock-picking would also be a difficult game.

The only clear winners with strong economic growth and higher inflation would be "cash" investments like money funds, and perhaps gold and real estate. But foreign stock markets might also do well, especially in the case of commodity-producing smaller countries.

• **Slow growth/higher inflation.** Remember "stagflation"? That was the term used to describe the US economy of the late-1970s, when growth was slow but inflation was high and rising.

Few Wall Streeters expect a repeat of stagflation in the '90s.

The late 1970s case was primarily a result of the oil-price shock of that period, as oil exporters demanded higher prices, slowing many nations' growth even as they paid more for energy and other raw materials.

But some market bears say stagflation is a real possibility for the US in 1995 and 1996.

Charles LaLoggia, who writes the *Special Situation Report* market newsletter in Rochester, New York, argues that inflation is mostly a function of how much money the Fed has pumped into the economy in prior years. He believes that the Fed kept interest rates too low for too long in 1992 and 1993, setting the stage for higher prices as excess dollars now make their way into "real" things like cars, machine tools, real estate, etc.

Thus, LaLoggia says, even though the Fed will probably succeed in slowing the economy with higher interest rates next year, inflation will not be easily squashed. That will induce the Fed to go

overboard with rate increases, pushing short rates down to 4.75% now, to at least 7.5% by late-1995, he says.

• **Result: Long-term bond yields will shoot to at least 9 percent.** LaLoggia says, and US stocks will crash. "Cash" will be king, along with gold, he says.

• **Recession.** You'd be hard-pressed to find a Wall Street pro who believes there's much chance of outright recession beginning before late 1995, and most economists doubt we'll have to worry about the R-word before mid-1996, if then.

Even so, stocks of US auto makers are at their 1994 lows, which suggests that investors don't believe that auto sales and earnings can get much better in 1995 than they are today. And the auto industry is often a leading indicator for the economy as a whole.

Historically, recessions are brought on when the Fed raises interest rates so high that economic growth halts, then turns negative. So far this year, the Fed's five increases in short-term rates, from 3% to 4.75%, haven't appeared to slow business activity except in the housing arena.

But what if the US economy cracks early in 1995, and recession begins to look imminent?

By then, the stock market would most likely be well into a bear phase, as investors would be expecting a slump in corporate earnings ahead. So if you fear recession by mid-1995, you wouldn't want to be a buyer of US stocks now.

One usual side effect of recession, of course, is that interest rates begin to decline again. So short-term cash accounts would quickly lose their shine, if recession looms. The hot investment would be bonds, as investors would rush to lock in yields.

"If you think there's going to be a recession soon," says Bankers Trust's Williams, "you should be buying bonds like crazy."

(Los Angeles Times)

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# Don't sing on your way to Petra

TRAVEL  
HAIM SHAPIRO

**D**ON'T sing the Petra song in Petra. That was one of several guidelines for Israelis visiting Jordan.

I probably would not have thought of the song were it not for the rule, but as my horse plodded along the canyon leading to the famed city, I could barely restrain myself from breaking out into song.

The most amazing thing about the visit to Jordan was that I was there at all. Perhaps this feeling of wonder made every sight even better than I had imagined. The red rocks of Petra were more striking than the photographs, and the detailed carving in the rock more impressive. The colors of the mosaic map at Madaba were clearer than in any picture, and the Roman theater at Jarash was more impressive than on Jordan television.

The Jordanians were admitting Israelis only if they had foreign passports, but former restrictions which had decreed that no sign of Israel besmirch these passports have been forgotten. Israel's restrictions on its citizens traveling directly into Jordan have also been lifted.

Galilee Tours, which organized the tour, reports that thus far, the demand has been brisk. With the signing of a peace treaty, it can only be a matter of weeks before Israelis will be able to enter Jordan on Israeli passports.

The Israeli exit procedures were quick, and an Egged bus took us the few hundred meters from the Israeli checkpoint to the Jordanian one.

At the Jordanian side, we bought dinars and lined up to get our visas. This took some time, as the clerk laboriously examined each passport, checked it against a computer printout, took the payment for a visa, wrote out a receipt, entered the transaction in a ledger, and then stamped our passports.

Fortunately, Gwen, the Galilee Tours tour leader who remained with us the entire trip and provided a mine of practical information,

had recommended that we stock up with sandwiches and snacks when we made a rest stop at the Dead Sea. We may have been impatient, but we weren't hungry.

At the border we met Ismail, our Jordanian guide, a personable young man with admirable pride in his country and its accomplishments and competent knowledge of its antiquities. Ismail took us on a bus tour of Akaba, whose lights we had often seen beckoning across the gulf.

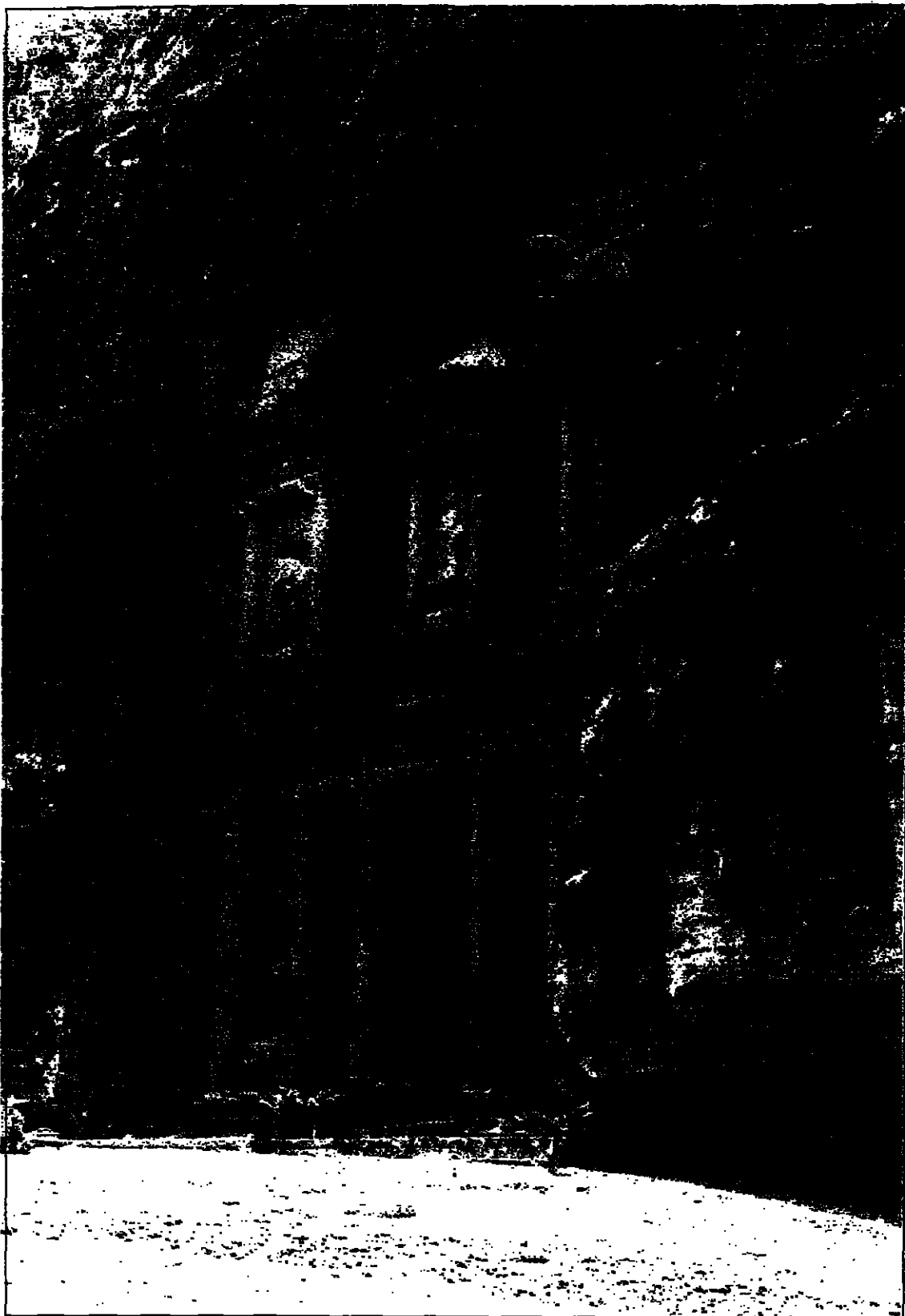
Most Israelis have seen Akaba from afar and wondered what lay behind those sparkling lights. Maybe that's a reason to go there, but I recommend skipping this relatively quiet seaside town with a few four-star hotels, some cheaper hotels, an undeveloped beachfront, and a downtown area with small shops and unpretentious restaurants.

The shops in Akaba sell goods which often resemble and are sometimes identical to souvenir items in shops in Israel. Our group found particularly attractive the woven Beduin carpets, gold jewelry and embroidered clothing and cushions. However, the item that they most often bought was T-shirts.

In Akaba we did feel enthusiasm for peace between Israel and Jordan: A honeymoon couple having supper near us asked if they could take a photograph with us. Their gesture was duplicated by virtually everyone with whom we came in contact.

Only in Amman, when we visited the market, did Gwen suggest that we avoid speaking Hebrew or telling people we were from Israel. She said the area was one in which Moslem fundamentalists were prevalent.

In Akaba, the four-star Gulf Hotel was perfectly adequate and spotlessly clean. In Amman we stayed at the five-star Forte Grand Hotel, whose vast rooms could match those of any luxury hotel here. Breakfast in both hotels featured lots of fresh vegetables and fresh rolls and cakes, as well as such local breakfast dishes as pitot, humous, ful, tehina, labane



Photographs barely convey the impressive rock carvings and glorious colors at Petra. (Karen Ben-Zion)

and olives. In Akaba, breakfast was eaten in haste; we had to leave at 7 a.m. in order to get to Petra, a two-and-a-half-hour drive, for a full day of touring.

Petra is a sight which can be seen in a few hours, or a week or two, if one has the time. In the tradition of the grand tour, we entered Petra on horseback. The price of the horse was paid by the tour company, but the rider is expected to tip the horseman. Our

guide told us that a dinar was sufficient. I gave the man two dinars, and resisted his entreaties that "everyone gives four dinars."

The following day of touring, to Madaba, Jerash and Mt. Nebo, the memorial to Moses, could only be an anticlimax, impressive as they were. Amman, while a modern and spotlessly clean city, appeared, from our brief bus tour, to have little that would attract the tourist.

There was no time for touring the next day, since the Allenby Bridge - known as the Hussein Bridge in Jordan - closes early in the day. The delays at the bridge were mainly on the Israeli side; traffic moved slowly because of security checks. In addition, a computer shutdown was said to be the reason we had to wait in the bus for over an hour. Going westward, it took a little over two hours to cross into Israel.

## See sites by bus, plane or balloon

**B**US tours to Jordan are available through Galilee Tours. Like all travel to Jordan, for the present it is open only to those with foreign passports. The tours include roundtrip transport from Tel Aviv or Jerusalem, hotels with breakfast, entrance fees, Jordanian guide and Israeli tour leader.

A four-day tour including Petra, Amman, Jarash, Madaba and Mount Nebo, is \$385 for a five-star hotel and \$319 for a four-star hotel. A two-day tour to Petra from Eilat for \$195.

Galilee Tours also arranges individual trips, priced according to the level of service. For example, a tour which includes transport between Tel Aviv and the border, two nights in the luxury Marriott Hotel and limousine tours in Jordan, would cost \$400 per person, the company says.

Arkia is offering two-day tours of Jordan, including a round-trip flight to Eilat from Tel Aviv, and bus transport in Jordan. The \$299 price includes one night in a four-

star hotel in Akaba, three meals, and guided tours of Petra and Akaba. The same tour with a three-star hotel is \$279.

Mazda Tours offers arrangements for individual travelers. A three-day tour with a minimum of two passengers, including transport in Jordan to and from the Allenby Bridge, three nights with breakfast in a three-star hotel, a local guide and a visit to Petra sells for \$260 per person. The company is also considering inaugurating a regular bus service via the new border crossing near Kibbutz Maoz Haim to Amman.

Another company with plans for a Jordanian tour is American Express, which says that it intends to inaugurate a super-deluxe excursion as soon as Israelis are permitted to enter Jordan on Israeli passports. Among the features promised are a hot-air balloon flight over Wadi Rum, near the Saudi border, and a stay in an ancient village near Petra which has been transformed into a luxury hotel. H.S.

## A matter of economy rather than gastronomy

**A** random sampling of a few restaurants in Jordan indicates that Israelis can eat well and at bargain prices, but that there are few gastronomic adventures awaiting them.

Of the three restaurants we tried, the best was the Mina House Restaurant near the old harbor in Akaba. Located on a stationary boat, it was cooled by a pleasant breeze that hot evening, and offered a good view of the twinkling lights of Eilat across the gulf.

The appetizers, served with very thin pita, included a few fairly standard salads and one unusual one made with cabbage and fish. The fresh grilled Red Sea fish was excellent and the slices of melon served afterwards, courtesy of the management, were delicious. The meal cost us about 7.5 dinars (NIS 32) per person.

In Amman, we ate in a surprisingly good fast-food restaurant. The chain is known as al-Mankal (which is the same as the Hebrew slang *mankal*, meaning grill) and specializes in Arabized Indian food.

At the branch in Amman's Jebel Hussein neighborhood we enjoyed crisp Indian bread, salads, chips, a spicy rice dish and a few varieties of grilled chicken, all for

about 6 dinars (NIS 26) per person.

Our most elaborate meal was at Reem Al-Bawady, in the Tila Al-Ali Quarter of Amman. The restaurant is in a large Beduin tent, with low chairs and tables made from brass trays.

Here the selection of salads was far larger, including a number of hot meat appetizers. Diners had a choice of taking only the salads or following them with a mixed grill; grilled fish or traditional Beduin dish of stewed lamb with rice and yogurt. A full meal came to about 9 dinars (NIS 39) per person. Others in the group found it very pleasant, but I was a bit put off by the touristy atmosphere.

At lunchtime we twice found ourselves at tourist sites, where the only food available was at the local "rest house."

In Petra, there was a buffet, but we were able to buy a "box lunch," including sandwiches, tomato, cucumber, apple, yogurt and cookies.

In Jarash, the only food available was the buffet, including salads and a number of meat dishes, for 5 dinars (NIS 22). The food was tasty but more than we wanted. Later we learned that we could have taken only salads and paid less. H.S.

## Ehud Olmert's double life: When 'No' means 'See you there'

GRAPEVINE  
GREER FAY CASHMAN

**H**AS Jerusalem mayor Ehud Olmert been cloned? Olmert's spokesman Hagai Elias issued a press release last week stating that Olmert and Jerusalem municipal officials would not attend last Thursday's Spanish National Day reception hosted by Spanish Consul General Andres Collado because Collado intended to hold separate receptions for Arabs and Jews.

Now people who saw Olmert at the affair are wondering whether they encountered an apparition, especially as a senior Spanish consular official refused to admit that Olmert was among the guests, stating that he was "not in a position to make a declaration."

At City Hall, the spokesman's office initially insisted that the mayor had given the reception a miss, but later changed the story, saying that Olmert had been unaware of the municipal boycott, aside from which "he was only there for a few minutes."

JERUSALEM is preparing to welcome Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh. At the invitation of Yehoshua, Philip will attend a ceremony honoring his late mother, Princess Alice, as a Righteous Gentile.

He was unable, for political rea-

sons, to accompany her coffin when her remains were reinterred in Jerusalem some years ago.

Philip, who is expected here at the end of the month, is the highest ranking British royal to set foot in Israel's capital.

WHEN NEWS was prematurely leaked that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat were to be this year's recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres refused to comment, stating that he preferred to wait for the official announcement.

Peres's exercise in self-control may have been based on information received from Michael Shilo, Israel's ambassador to Norway, who had ascertained that the decision was not yet final.

Peres was notified by the Norwegian Embassy last Friday, half an hour prior to the announcement by the Nobel Prize Committee in Oslo, that he, too, would be a Nobel laureate.

This week, he put an end to speculation over what he and Rabin would do with their \$600,000-plus share of the prize money. It will be used for scholarships for demobilized soldiers at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

DIFFERENT STROKES for dif-



Lord Attenborough with Ehud Manor and his wife at the Sheraton Hotel, where the general manager indulged the British filmmaker's passion for ice cream. (Israel Sun)

ferent folks. While singer Achinoam Nini described her rendition of "Ave Maria" in St. Peter's Square in the presence of Pope John Paul II as the most important performance of her career, Italian rabbis were horrified that an Israeli of Yemenite origin should publicly desecrate the spirit of the Sabbath by singing a song which is so closely tied to Christianity.

The rabbis have registered their protest with the Israeli Chief Rabbinate.

THIS particular pontiff, however, is known to be well disposed towards the Jews, and has welcomed to the Vatican numerous spiritual and secular dignitaries from Israel and the rest of the Jewish world.

Among the recent visitors was Abraham Foxman, national director of B'nai B'rith's Anti-Defamation League, who presented the pope with a large medallion produced by the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation, featuring as its centerpiece an image of Marc Chagall's painting of King David.

Foxman, who, like the pope, was born in Poland, was a hidden child during the Holocaust, and spent some of his formative years in the guise of a Catholic.

SOUTH AFRICAN-born fashion designer Lesley Ann Weselak, who recently opened her own studio in Ra'anana, showed her collection to the president's wife, Reuma



(Back row from left) IWC founding member Aviva Zak with fashion designer Lesley Ann Weselak. (Front row from left) Former IWC president Ayal Saniye Golke, Reuma Weizman, and current president Naomi Furman. (Shlomo Taiz)

Weizman, and scores of other guests at the International Women's Club 25th anniversary luncheon at the Tel Aviv Hilton.

Chaired by newly elected club president Naomi Furman, the event was also attended by vivacious Haifa attorney Aviva Zak, an IWC founding member. "It started with bridge and cooking and now it's also lectures, crafts, archeology, parties and everlasting friendships," declared Zak, who proclaimed the IWC an absorption club for wives of foreign diplomats - "to make them feel at home while here."

URGED BY his good friend Sidney Samelson, chairman of the

British Film Commission, internationally acclaimed British actor and filmmaker Lord Attenborough accepted the invitation of Beth Hatefutsoth to come here to receive honorary life membership of the museum in recognition of his and his family's humanitarian work.

His lordship, accompanied by his wife of 51 years, former actress and former justice of the peace Sheila Sim, was also feted by the Tel Aviv Sheraton Hotel and by the British Council.

Learning of Attenborough's passion for ice cream, Sheraton general manager Clement Hassid, at a dinner attended by British Ambassador Robert Burns, ac-

tress Orna Porat, and radio and television personality Ehud Manor, among others, wheeled in a trolley full of different brands and flavors with the request that Attenborough taste them to determine the hotel's ice-cream menu.

This was Attenborough's first visit to Israel, but it will be only a few months before he returns. At a meeting with Arts and Science Minister Shulamit Aloni, he agreed to come back next January to lead a course for scriptwriters and film and television directors.

MEXICAN television personality Jacobo Zabludovsky found the perfect gift for Hebrew University president Hanoeh Gutfreund. Zabludovsky, who holds an honorary HU PhD, chose a book of memoirs, *Anos Pasados*, written by his late father, David Zabludovsky, about the latter's travels as an itinerant bookseller throughout Eastern Europe and his later life in Mexico.

Although the book has been translated from its original Yiddish into Spanish, Cracow-born Gutfreund mentioned to Zabludovsky that he would love to receive a copy of the Yiddish version, since he doesn't speak Spanish. Zabludovsky was happy to oblige.

"OUR ENTHUSIASM will not be dampened by the attitude and ignorance of Ora Namir," declared Delysia Jayson, founder and chairperson of Keren Klita at the organization's fourth annual seminar on one-to-one immigrant absorption.

Jayson was referring to Namir's comment about the large number of immigrants from the former Soviet Union who were either single parents or welfare cases.

Jayson and other Keren Klita activists can cite numerous examples of older Russian immigrants who have found employment and are not a burden on the government.

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